

Najibullah tightens grip

KABUL (Agencies) — President Najibullah, tightening his grip on the Kabul government, will head a supreme military council to coordinate Afghanistan's war against Western-backed rebels, Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil said Sunday.

Najibullah earlier imposed a state of emergency and sacked a quarter of his cabinet, just three days after the Soviet Union withdrew its last troops from Afghanistan.

The Soviet pullout after nine years left his government's forces to fight Mujahideen rebels alone. A decree signed by the 43-year-old Afghan president Saturday said the country's national sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity were under threat.

Wakil said the council would coordinate military, economic and political activities and would take over in the next few days. He said in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) this was not a move towards military rule because the civilian council of ministers (cabinet) would continue to function.

Earlier, Foreign Ministry officials said seven central committee members of Najibullah's ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) were brought in to replace non-party ministers.

"We wanted to send a signal to the counter-revolutionaries who think that the party is finished," a senior party member commented. "We are more united, more determined, and stronger than ever."

The reshuffle was carried out Saturday afternoon shortly before the announcement on the state broadcasting network of a state of emergency.

Wakil said the proposed "supreme military council for the defence of the homeland" would contain both PDPA members and non-members.

He told the BBC that the state of emergency decreed by Najibullah from Sunday morning was a precautionary measure to counter

sabotage by the guerrillas and neighbouring Pakistan.

Meanwhile, after nearly two weeks of political manoeuvring, Iran-based Afghan rebels have returned to Iran empty-handed without winning a role in shaping a proposed interim government for their country.

A spokesman said a delegation of the eight-party alliance of minority Shi'ite Muslims led by Mohammad Karim Khalili, left Saturday night after Pakistan-based comrades agreed in their absence to the nomination of a fundamentalist prime minister for the proposed government.

The Khalili spokesman said the Iran-based Mujahideen fighters would not be bound by decisions of a Shura, or consultative council, which was to vote later Sunday on a cabinet list drawn up by the prime minister-designate, U.S.-trained engineer Ahmad Shah.

The Iran-based rebels, pressing for demands for greater representation, boycotted the Shura when it began Feb. 10.

Western diplomats have stressed the need for unity among feuding rebel groups to bolster

their struggle to dislodge Najibullah's government.

They said a broad-based interim government could increase the chances of a possible military coup against Najibullah and trigger more government defections to rebel ranks.

In a surprise development Saturday, Sibghatulla Mojaddidi announced with immediate effect his resignation as chairman of the Pakistan-based, seven-party alliance of majority Sunni Muslims in favour of fellow moderate Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi.

He said he had stepped down voluntarily to avoid a split in the alliance of four fundamentalist and three moderate parties.

Mojaddidi, who supported the Iran-based fighters, also boycotted some of the Shura sessions.

In his interview with the BBC, Foreign Minister Wakil said that in the past few days government security forces had detained many agents belonging to the parties of rebel leaders Burhanuddin Rabbani and Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and seized a tonne of explosives.

Commenting on the sacking of the non-party ministers, he said

their replacements from the central committee were more dependable.

He blamed some of the sacked ministers for contributing to the shortage of food and fuel in Kabul this winter, saying they had failed to bring in adequate supplies when the weather was warmer earlier in the year.

Wakil said new security measures would be introduced throughout Afghanistan in the next few days, including house-to-house searches for guerrilla arms caches.

The Afghan capital has remained calm after the imposition of the emergency, which brought more tanks, armoured personnel carriers and troops onto the streets than normal.

The government was mobilising all PDPA members not already serving in the armed forces, a senior party official said.

Photographers reported that several hundred party men were brought into the city from outlying areas Sunday, armed with brand-new Kalashnikov assault rifles.

The civilians, mainly younger or older than the average soldier, were marshalled at Khair Khana



Business as usual... An open-air barber attends to a customer on a Kabul street

on the western edge of Kabul and then dispatched to defence positions.

The emergency, which can last for three months without extension, suspends a series of constitutional rights including freedom of expression, assembly and foreign travel.

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Arafat: Israel, PLO hold indirect talks on S. Lebanon

NEW YORK (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is holding indirect talks with Israel aimed at achieving a ceasefire in South Lebanon, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat was quoted on U.S. television as saying Saturday.

He also proposed establishing a common market of Middle Eastern nations to guarantee a lasting peace in the region.

Arafat spoke in an interview with CBS News' "60 Minutes" to be broadcast Sunday. A transcript of the interview was issued Saturday.

Arafat said Israel had asked for a truce in South Lebanon, from which resistance groups have tried to infiltrate Israel, and "it is serious talk."



Yasser Arafat

Recent attempts to infiltrate Israel from South Lebanon have been staged by pro-Iranian or Damascus-based groups not under Arafat's direct control, Israel, however, holds him responsible for them.

The PLO leader also proposed establishing a common market in the Middle East, including Israel, Jordan and Lebanon.

"You think that peace is only a paper? Peace has... to be implemented... joint ventures, against our children."

another Marshall plan in the area," he said, referring to rebuilding post-war Europe.

Arafat said the idea would need the support of the United States, the Soviet Union, Europe and Japan.

The PLO chief also said he would like to meet with Secretary of State James Baker to discuss Baker's warning that attacks on Israeli soldiers or civilians by Palestinians deeply troubled the Bush administration.

Arafat said he would like Baker to say the same thing to Israeli forces "who are occupying my country and making daily aggression against our children, against our women, against our masses, against our children."

Arafat also said the PLO would punish Palestinian leader Ahmad Jibril if he was found responsible for the bombs that destroyed Pan Am Flight 103 over Scotland. "But it has to be proven," he said.

An Israeli official said Tuesday Western intelligence agencies had concluded the attack was carried out by Jibril's group, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, with help from Lebanese from a faction involved in a power struggle within Iran.

Fahd welcomes Soviet pullout

LONDON (R) — Saudi Arabia expressed its satisfaction Sunday at the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, long a Saudi condition for resumption of diplomatic ties with Moscow.

"The Custodian of the Holy Places (King Fahd) has followed with interest the stages of withdrawal and showed his satisfaction over its completion in the announced time," Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal was quoted as saying in Asharq Al Awsat newspaper.

The London-based newspaper reported him as saying the withdrawal, completed Feb. 15, had given the Afghan people the opportunity to choose the form of government they wanted and had brought freedom and independence to the country.

Riyadh and Moscow broke off



King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz

diplomatic relations in 1938 and now the kingdom is alone with Bahrain in not having ties with the Soviet Union.

Saudi Arabia has been a staunch supporter of the rebels fighting the Soviet-backed government in Kabul, supplying material and financial assistance.

Prince Saud called on the Afghan rebel parties to "seize the opportunity" to unite, leaving aside the campaigns of doubt which certain quarters raise."

Lebanese goes on trial for Geneva hijacking

GENEVA (R) — A Lebanese goes on trial amidst tight security measures from Monday, on charges of hijacking an Air Afrique airliner to Geneva and killing a French passenger in July 1987.

Hussein Ali Mohammad Hariri, aged 23, will be tried before a Swiss federal criminal court in Lausanne. He faces a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

The trial, set to last five days, was scheduled for last November but was postponed to allow psychiatrists to examine him further.

The Air Afrique DC-10, whose flight began in the Congolese capital Brazzaville, was en route to Paris from Rome with 148 passengers and 15 crew aboard when Hariri commandeered it and forced the crew to land at Geneva's Cointrin airport.

Hariri is accused of killing a French passenger, 28-year-old Xavier Beaulieu, with a semi-automatic pistol after covering his head with a blanket.

Hariri has been in a Geneva high security prison since he was overpowered at the airport by a Congolese steward, Jean-Pierre Elouma. Elouma was shot in the abdomen but survived, and is expected to testify at the trial.

Hariri, who comes from a small

village in southern Lebanon, had demanded the release of two pro-Iranian extremists jailed in France and West Germany, according to Nabil Ramlawi, the Palestine Liberation Organisation representative in Geneva who acted as the main crisis negotiator.

The two were Georges Ibrahim Abdallah, serving a life term in France for killing an American and an Israeli diplomat in 1982, and Lebanese Mohammad Ali Hamadi.

Hamadi is on trial in Frankfurt on charges of hijacking a U.S. Trans World Airlines plane to Beirut in June 1985. A U.S. navy diver was shot dead and 39 people were held hostage for 17 days.

Two months ago Peter Winkler, a Swiss national working for the Red Cross, was kidnapped in Lebanon and Swiss authorities said the move was probably aimed at securing Hariri's release.

Winkler was freed a month later. Days afterwards the Red Cross pulled its staff out of Lebanon, followed shortly by Swiss embassy staff, citing serious threats to their safety. The Red Cross has since announced its decision to resume normal operations in Lebanon.

Uprising — 'door to peace'

SANAA (AP) — The 14-month-old uprising by the Palestinians living under Israeli occupation must be backed because it is "the door to peace in the Middle East," said World Peace Council (WPC) Chairman Romeo Chandra at the opening of an international peace conference Saturday.

The Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip is the top item on the agenda of the three-day parley organised by the Helsinki-based Council and the North Yemeni Council for Peace and Solidarity.

More than 60 participants were present for the forum which has been dubbed "The International Forum for Peace and Security

and Development in the Middle East and the Mediterranean."

The participants are from the various WPC branches around the world.

Other topics to be debated at the parley include a nuclear-free Middle East and Mediterranean basin and regional development problems.

North Yemeni Prime Minister Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani, who welcomed the delegates, stressed his country's efforts to contribute to world peace, security and stability.

He placed within that context his country's recent joining with Egypt, Iraq and Jordan in the Arab Cooperation Council alliance which he said was "born to

preserve peace and security in the region."

Khaled Mohieddin, head of Egypt's leftist party and chairman of its WPC, expressed strong backing for the recently born union among four Arab states saying it was "an excellent Arab move."

Chandra hailed the superpower summit and its ramifications for world peace, but he added "peace doesn't depend on two superpowers and there must be a third chair — the third chair is for the people in the world."

He called the Soviet pullout from Afghanistan "an attempt to stabilise world peace."

Satisfaction was voiced over the peace process going on in the Gulf and South Africa.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

British minehunters leave Gulf

DUBAI (R) — Three British minehunters will return home in eight days after clearing mines from the sea lane opposite the United Arab Emirates, a British navy spokesman said Sunday.

He said the three ships — Chiddingfold, Cottemore and Berkeley — would leave Feb. 27 after arriving 18 months ago to join Britain's Armilla Squadron of warships in the southern Gulf.

The Regional Organisation for the Protection of the Environment (ROPME) is due to meet in Kuwait that day to discuss the threat of mines in the Gulf. The eight-member group of Gulf littoral nations has been discussing ways to remove the mines from the eight-year war between Iran and Iraq. Minehunters from several European navies, most of which have now gone, had been clearing the southern part of the Gulf. The U.S. navy is still searching the section north of Bahrain. Most of the mines are near the coasts of Iran and Iraq and naval experts in the Gulf say there is little chance of clearing them properly unless Tehran and Baghdad pinpoint their positions. The British spokesman said the remaining threat to shipping near the United Arab Emirates would be if a rogue mine from the north slipped its moorings and drifted south.

Israel detains journalist

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli police Saturday arrested a Palestinian journalist who had recently held talks with Labour Party politicians. Police and lawyers said Sam'an Khouri, a journalist for Agence France Presse and an official in the Arab Journalists Association, was ordered detained without trial for six months. Khouri and other Palestinians who support the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) met Deputy Finance Minister Yossi Beilin and other members of the Labour Party last week for talks. The talks sparked a Likud bloc which governs Israel in coalition. The office of Likud Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir insisted the talks would lead nowhere. Police sources said Khouri's detention had nothing to do with the meetings.

They said he was suspected of being an activist in the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP). Khouri has been detained twice before without trial for a total of nearly five months since the Palestinian uprising began in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in December 1987.

Polisario threatens to resume war

RABAT (R) — Polisario guerrillas have threatened to resume their war with Morocco over the Western Sahara unless King Hassan meets them again within 10 days. In a statement telecast to Reuters Saturday night, Bachir Mustapha Sayed, a member of Polisario's executive committee, said: "There is no doubt that if by the end of February the dialogue remains interrupted and prospects of peace are stalled, the battles will resume." Polisario declared a ceasefire this month, saying it wished to smooth the way for formation of a Maghreb union. The union between Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania was proclaimed in Marrakesh last week. Sayed and other Polisario leaders held a first round of direct talks with King Hassan in early January. It was to be followed by a second session which the guerrilla movement says has been postponed indefinitely at Morocco's request. "The indefinite postponement of the meeting which was going to be decisive arouses suspicion, scepticism and uncertainty regarding peace prospects," Sayed's statement said. Both sides have accepted a U.N. peace plan which proposes a referendum to settle the 15-year-old conflict over the thinly populated desert territory.

Iraq: Iran holds 213 non-Iraqis

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Sunday there were only 213 non-Iraqi Arab prisoners of war (POWs) in Iran, denying reports that Tehran held several thousand Egyptians. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) rejected the figures given by an Egyptian diplomat in a Reuters report five days ago. The diplomat said Oman was trying to help free "several thousand" Egyptians captured by Iran during the eight-year long Gulf war. "Their total does not exceed 213," INA said.

DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 K.o.a.n.
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
17:10 High Mountain Rangers
18:50 News summary in Arabic
19:30 World News
19:35 Arabic series
19:40 Local programme
19:45 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:35 Programme review
21:45 Monday Forum
22:20 Variety Show
22:50 News summary in Hebrew
23:10 Variety show (contd.)

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Le Monde est A Vous
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sport magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:30 Allo Allo
21:00 So you want to stop smoking
21:10 Jack and Mike
22:50 News in English
23:20 Jewel in the Crown

PRAYER TIMES

04:52 Sunrise
06:10 Sunrise
11:49 Dhuhr
14:59 'Asr

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweflich Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622666
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 775261
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811265
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 622605
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
The country will be affected by a cold air mass. Therefore a drop in temperature will occur and it will be

partly cloudy and rainy sometimes.

Winds will be westerly moderate to fresh.
In Amman, it will be partly cloudy and scattered rain is expected. Winds will be northerly moderate becoming southerly moderate to fresh and sea wavy.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 3 / 9
Aqaba 8 / 18
Deserts 1 / 14
Jordan Valley 9 / 17

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 11, Aqaba 20. Humidity readings: Amman 72 per cent, Aqaba 38 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Issa Haddad 797007
Dr. Mohammad 'Azam 818911
Dr. Keyed Halaweh 795322
Dr. Tayseer Khair 608857
Firm pharmacy 661912

Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asmaa pharmacy 637025
Nairook pharmacy 636762
Al Salama pharmacy 636730
Yaseen pharmacy 644945
Shamsan pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Ahmed Al Naqoori (—)
Al Sharaa pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:
Dr. Ziad Ju'aim (—)
Khalil pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630941
Rescue Police 199
Fire Brigade 623090/93
Blood Bank 752121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 656390/91
Public Security Department 656000 / 685111
Hotel Complaints 658800
Price Complaints 661776
Water and Sewerage

Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 12
Overseas Calls 17
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-52000

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Alfahd Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mallat, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsan 6641714
Shamsan Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845345
Al-Muasher Hospital 667279
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/78
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646

Italian, Al-Mahajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marika 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602400/50
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983332
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Jbn Sina Hospital (09)986732

HOSPITALS

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)27275
Jbn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in lbs per kg.
Apple 470 / 470
Banana 350 / 300
Banana (Mukammal) 300 / 250
Beans 700 / 600
Broad beans 400 / 300
Cabbage 200 / 150
Carrots 250 / 200
Cauliflower 180 / 120
Cucumbers 520 / 460
Eggs 600 / 500
Eggplant 240 / 200

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)5200-5, where it should always be verified.
ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
09:10 Aqaba (RJ)
09:30 Cairo (RJ)
09:35 Sana'a (RJ)
09:40 Kuwait (RJ)
09:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:45 Damascus, Larnaca (RJ)
16:45 Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:20 Sana'a (LH)
09:30 Cairo, Aqaba (MS)
12:15 Baghdad (MS)
12:30 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
20:50 Paris (AF)
DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:55 Aqaba (RJ)
11:50 Brussels, Montreal, New York (RJ)
11:45 Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (RJ)
12:15 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)
12:30 Kuwait, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
13:40 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
14:10 Baghdad (RJ)
18:15 Jeddah (RJ)
20:20 Cairo (RJ)
20:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
06:30 Cairo, London (BA)
06:15 Beirut (ME)
10:10 Frankfurt (LH)
10:20 Cairo (MS)
13:30 Baghdad (IA)
13:30 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah (GF)
21:50 Baghdad (AF)

Crown Prince to chair Ajloun development talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will chair a meeting to be held in Ajloun on Feb. 26 with local development councils, to discuss the district's development programme, according to an official announcement here Sunday.

It said that the meeting will be affiliated to the development council's meeting which was held in the Irbid region in the past year.

According to the announcement, the meeting in Ajloun will chart a programme for the private and public sectors to contribute to the development of the Ajloun district in the coming years.

Prince Hassan chaired development council meetings in the north, south and central regions of Jordan to discuss various economic and social development projects in these regions.

There was a special meeting to discuss the development of the Badia region (desert lands) in Jordan which accounts for nearly 70 per cent of the total area of the Kingdom.



HRH Crown Prince Hassan

Dajani instructs governors to release all detainees

AMMAN (J.T.) — In accordance with a Royal Decree, Interior Minister Rajai Dajani Sunday issued instructions to governors to release all administrative detainees in the Kingdom's various governorates, Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

His Majesty King Hussein Saturday issued a decree ordering the release of all administrative detainees and all prisoners who have served more than half their respective sentences. The decree,

which was issued to mark last week's establishment of the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), also reduced by half the sentences of those serving prison terms.

Those released Sunday expressed their appreciation and thanks to King Hussein for his gesture, asserting their loyalty and dedication to the Hashemite leadership and their intention to lead a normal life in the service of the country, Petra said.

Quadruplets, triplets born in Irbid

IRBID (Petra) — Two Jordanian women have given birth to a quadruplets and triplets at the military hospital in Irbid. The quadruplets — three girls and a boy with weight ranging between 1.440 kilograms and 1.99 kilograms — were placed in an incubator and were being fed intravenously. The triplets — all girls with weights ranging between three kilograms and three and a half kilograms — were doing well.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

EURO-ARAB CONFERENCE: A Euro-Arab conference on arbitration will be held in Amman this year under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, according to a report in Al Dustour daily. The report said that the conference, which will be organised by the Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions, will be attended by 300 personalities, all specialists in law and legal affairs pertaining to trade from Arab regional and foreign countries. Dr. Fathi Kamisheh from the Arab-European Chamber of Commerce is currently in Amman to prepare for the coming conference, according to the paper (J.T.).

UDIN TO ATTEND ALO MEETING: The Council of Ministers Sunday formed Jordan's delegation to the 17th meeting of the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) due to be held in Rabat, Morocco, on March 16. According to a statement following the council's meeting held under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister Thouqan Hindawi, the two-week conference will be attended by Labour Minister Marwan Udin and a delegation representing the Ministry of Labour, the Jordanian labour unions and employers. (Petra)

3 SECONDARY SCHOOLS INAUGURATED: Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouqan Hindawi Monday inaugurates three secondary schools in Salt, Allan and Mahes, constructed at a total cost of JD 1,511,046. The new school buildings in Balqa Governorate will replace the rented ones. (Petra)

MAFRAQ SOCIAL SERVICES CENTRE: Mafraq Governor Fayez Al Abbadi Sunday reviewed the plan of action of Princess Basma Social Services Centre, with the centre's local committee. The centre's plan provides for holding training courses in the field of child-care and community development. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by Paul and Emanuel Guiragoussian at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.
- ★ The Arab Contemporary Artists exhibition at Al Wasiti Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of models of the Jordanian plastic art, in which 22 Jordanian artists are participating, at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "The Tuebingen Atlas of the Middle East" at the Department of Geography, the University of Jordan.
- ★ A photography exhibition entitled "Under Pure Skies" exhibiting 100 19th century photographs of the Middle East at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ An exhibition of paintings of Jordan by Luz Marina Robertson at the Petra Bank Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of Polish contemporary art at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of Islamic art and calligraphy by Jordanian artist Mohammad Mubaidin at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition on Aila, an Islamic medieval city, port of Palestine and the storehouse of Hijaz on the China Sea, at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ An exhibition of Arabic books which includes 15,000 books on science, education and culture at the Karak Community College.
- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian artist 'Adnan Yahya at Alia Art Gallery.

THEATRE

- ★ Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet will be performed by the London Shakespeare Group at the Yarmouk University — 4:00 p.m.

LECTURE

- ★ A lecture entitled "The Bible and History: the Origins of State" by Jean-Michel de Tarragon at the French Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.

FILM

- ★ A Spanish film entitled "Requiem por un Campesino Espanol" at the Spanish Cultural Centre — 10:30 a.m.

Queen Noor praises NMI efforts

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor praised Sunday the efforts of the National Medical Institution (NMI) for fulfilling its aims and reaching out to the different sectors of society in Jordan.

During a visit to the NMI, Queen Noor also expressed satisfaction with the extent of cooperation between the Ministry of Health and NMI, and called for an awareness campaign to be launched by the officials of both government departments on preserving cleanliness of the hospitals.

NMI Director Daoud Hanania briefed Queen Noor on the historical development of health care in Jordan, the mission of NMI, the organisational structure, the current scope of work, the master plan for the year 2000, as well as the main tasks performed to date.

Dr. Hanania also discussed the goals of the institution vis-a-vis the present health needs for up-grading health care services in the Kingdom.



HM Queen Noor

National Medical Institution was created, consolidating the country's three government hospital systems — the Ministry of Health, Royal Medical Services and Jordan University Hospital — into one organisation.

The principal objectives of NMI are to provide quality secondary and tertiary care in a cost-efficient manner, by applying modern management techniques and by avoiding the duplication of services experienced by the previous system.

The central theme behind many of Queen Noor's projects in the Kingdom is primary health care for children and health awareness programmes for mothers.

These projects include health communication for child survival programme, the Institute for Child Health and Development, as well as ongoing plans to establish a national hospital for children.

On Oct. 16, 1987, the

Municipality to remove dilapidated buildings from downtown Amman

ZARQA (Petra) — Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh said Sunday Amman Municipality has worked out plans to remove dilapidated

buildings from the centre of the capital to make more room for the growing volume of traffic and give further space for pedestrians downtown.

"At the same time the municipality continues its endeavours to find new ways for disposing of garbage, which is growing in volume all the time, and ways to safeguard the environment within the capital's boundaries," the mayor said in a lecture he delivered here.

In his lecture the mayor outlined Amman's history and its development and current programmes for expansion and the improvement of public services.

The first municipality in Amman was established in 1909 and

since then municipal services have been on the increase as the people grew in number, thus requiring more attention, the mayor noted.

He said that the continuous efforts by the municipality teams have made Amman one of the cleanest capitals around the world.

"The municipality is going ahead with plans to green the capital, create more public gardens in every district and is giving due care to protect the city from pollution," the mayor said.

The director of education and heads of government agencies in Zarqa were among the audience.



Fayez Tarawneh

Tarawneh to inspect supplies in south

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Supply Fayez Tarawneh will make a tour of the southern regions Tuesday to discuss the supply situation there.

His tour will take him to Karak, Tafleeh, Ma'an and Aqaba districts where he will meet officials and discuss means of ensuring sufficient food supplies for these regions, according to Sawt Al Shaab daily.

The paper said the minister will visit the supply department in the south and inspect a supply complex south of the port city of Aqaba which is still under construction.



Mamdouh Abbadi

Jordan to take part in Arab medical conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is taking part in the 25th conference of the Arab Doctors Federation which opens in Baghdad Tuesday.

President of the Jordanian Medical Association (JMA), Dr. Mamdouh Al Abbadi, will attend the conference which is being held under the title: coordination and integration of medical services for the Arab World.

The three-day conference will review working papers and subjects dealing with transplanting of human organs among other highly specialised topics, according to a report in Sawt Al Shaab daily.

It said that a seminar on drug addiction and another on infant mortality will be organised during the conference.

New batch of policemen get advanced training

SOUTH SHUNEH (Petra) — Two more batches of police officers with advanced training graduated Sunday from the Kafar training centre in the Jordan Valley at a ceremony attended by Public Security Department (PSD) Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali.

Majali delivered a speech underlining the importance of the advanced training courses for all police officers since they provide new high-level skills.

"The new graduates are needed to help carry out the PSD's comprehensive security programme which is being implemented in the country," Majali noted.

According to the commander of the PSD, Special Training Department recruits take six courses covering operations training normally by Badia and Border Police Forces, as well as special training to provide protection for leaders and important personalities, in addition to training in the use of various types of arms and vehicles.

The graduates presented a performance of their skills as well as martial arts, mountain climbing and sports activities at the graduation ceremony.

At the end of the exercises Majali presented awards to the graduates.

Ma'an youths launch cleanliness campaign

MA'AN (Petra, J.T.) — The Jordan Youth Organisation (JYO) in the Ma'an Governorate announced Sunday that it will launch a cleanliness campaign along the desert highway in from Aqaba to Jurf Al Darawish to be carried out in the coming month.

A JYO statement here said that 12 local youth clubs and six sports clubs, as well as private organisations will take part in the

campaign which entails removing old tyres steved on the road, burning rubbish dumped along the sides of the road stretching 180 kilometres.

It said that citizens from the Ma'an Governorate will take part in the campaign by providing vehicles and trucks to carry away refuse, by providing financial contributions and by voluntary work.

JEA signs agreement to establish Bailey controls firm in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — An agreement was signed at the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Sunday, paving the way for the establishment of a Bailey Controls Company (Jordan) to take charge of systems control and services in Jordan and other parts of the Arab World.

Services, they added, include installation, control, supervision and maintenance of systems at these industries, which include petrochemicals, oil refineries and fertilisers.

At a later stage, the officials said, there will be training for more Jordanian technicians and engineers on the company's operations, designing and manufacturing components used in systems control operations.

The Bailey Controls International, they added, will be employing Jordanian engineers and technicians abroad through the Jordanian company, thus creating jobs for Jordanian technicians with good returns for the national economy.

The firm will be created in cooperation with the Bailey Controls International, which will own half of the Jordanian company's capital and which will provide expertise and training, according to the provisions of an agreement signed by JEA Director General Mohammad Arafah and representatives of Bailey Controls International.

The first step in the project will be recruiting and training 25 Jordanian engineers in the first year to take charge in controlling the systems whether owned by JEA or other industrial businesses in the country.

The second stage will be participating in control, supervision and maintenance operations in Jordan and abroad, the officials said.

According to JEA officials, the



JEA Director General Mohammad Arafah and a representative of Bailey Controls International Sunday sign an agreement to establish Bailey Controls Company in Jordan (Petra photo)

JIEC extends registration deadline for permanent industrial exhibition

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) has extended a deadline for Jordanian industrial businesses wishing to take part in a permanent exhibition which was due to open at the Sahab Industrial City (SIC) during February.

A JIEC announcement said that the extension was motivated by the huge number of applications received by Jordanian

businesses to participate in the exhibition, which will display national products.

The Jordanian firms have now been allowed until the end of this month to send in their applications before a decision can be taken to open the exhibition, a JIEC official said.

Earlier this month, the JIEC, announced that the SIC has room for displaying products by 350 companies, but the new

announcement did not mention the number of applications received so far or whether there will be an expansion of the present site to accommodate more companies.

Most of the 140 industries at SIC will take part in the exhibition — displaying electrical appliances, plastic, leather and rubber products, chemical and textile goods, furniture, paper, medicine and other products.

Seminar examines steps taken for the wellbeing of senior citizens

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A seminar examining measures for the well-being of senior citizens in Jordan Sunday reviewed a working paper on national, regional and international efforts being made to take care of the elderly people.

The paper, submitted by Dr. Abdullah Al Khatib, president of the General Union of Voluntary Societies which organised the seminar, discussed various trends in the course of caring for the elderly and proposed ideas for application in Jordan.

A second paper was presented by Dr. Sari Naser, head of the University of Jordan's Sociology Department, and another pre-

sented by Haifa Al Bashir, president of the Jordanian Women's Federation, outlining a survey conducted in Jordan on 130 cases of elderly people.

Mr. Khalil Faouri, director general of the National Aid Fund, presented a paper that dealt with assistance to the needy and the old.

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Jordan Times

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Welcome and best wishes

THE STRONG sense of purpose and drive for peace reflected in Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's statements in Damascus and Amman, and his firm assertion that the U.N. Security Council has to take the lead in Middle East peace process come at the most opportune moment in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The planned meeting between Shevardnadze and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens in Cairo later this week — though described as no big deal — is yet another strong signal that Moscow does indeed intend to see it through that it leaves no door unopened in the quest for peace.

It is no coincidence that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir suddenly finds it fit to wave a red herring by announcing a shift in his declared pursuit of a la-carte Camp David peace settlement to acceptance of a peace conference under U.S.-Soviet supervision. But Shevardnadze more than amply replied to Shamir by pointing out to the resounding focus that the new Soviet proposal is giving to the five permanent members of the Security Council as the guardians of any settlement. Furthermore, the nine-month timeframe, which the three-phase Soviet plan outlines as the maximum duration before actually convening an international conference, is highly realistic in that the only party that needs any convincing is Israel since the Arab position is loud and clear over the inevitable fundamentals of any peace solution.

The Soviet proposal's very pointed reference to the "peace-making potential" of the U.N. and "other mutually acceptable and flexible forms of constructive action among the parties involved" should go a long way in countering Israel's contention that it would come under "pressure" at any international forum to accept "imposed solutions." What the Israeli leaders are not saying is that they have only their oppressive policies and expansionist ambitions to blame for finding themselves at the receiving end of international criticism.

The marked difference this time around is that the Soviet proposal provides and more for Israel's "genuine" security fears by calling for intense consultations among the parties concerned and asserting that the five permanent members of the Security Council would only assume the function of a preparatory body for the conference. At the same time, left vague at this point is the defined role of the permanent members of the Security Council in the international conference, as and when it is convened. But then, no-one lives under the illusion that the forum would go on an Israel-bashing spree and impose a solution that would threaten the genuine security of the Jewish state. In Shevardnadze's own words, Israel should realise that security could not be achieved by suppressing the Palestinian uprising and retaining the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon.

However, at this juncture in time, what is needed is a change in the Israeli rejection of a realistic "territorial compromise;" that is the fundamental element that should fall into place before we can hope for progress in peace efforts. Hopefully, the international community would pick up its cues from the Soviet proposal and address the overwhelming negative Israeli position, which is THE stumbling block in any drive for peace.

We welcome our dear guest, Shevardnadze, to the region and hope that the first strong Soviet diplomatic foray into the labyrinth of the Arab-Israeli conflict in years would be crowned with success.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

A VISIT to Jordan by the Soviet foreign minister offers material for commentary in the Arab dailies Sunday. Al Ra'i Arabic daily said the visit is clearly part of Moscow's current efforts to bring about peace to the Middle East. The Soviet Union realises that the Arab World is seeking to establish peace through the projected international conference to be held under the United Nations auspices and with the participation of all concerned parties including the PLO, the paper noted. It said that the Soviet moves come at a time when the Middle East is witnessing important developments in the wake of the creation of the Arab Cooperation Council and in the light of the on-going uprising in the occupied Arab territories. These events prove beyond doubt that the Arab World is oriented towards establishing a just and durable peace that can ensure the rights of all people and all countries in the region, the paper added. But it said the visit coincides also with an escalation of atrocities on the part of the Israeli authorities against the Arab people of Palestine. This is the right time to move and end the Arab-Israeli conflict, and it is hoped that Moscow which is known to be siding with the just cause of the Arab World will do all it can to help end the conflict in our region.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily criticises the Western media for not only ignoring the creation of the Arab Cooperation Council but also for issuing false and hostile rumours and propaganda campaigns against its member states. Mahmoud Al Rimawi says that Western circles are putting around rumours and hostile impressions about the council, claiming that its members will be confronted with unsurmountable obstacles and difficulties. These media regard the council as a business firm aiming to achieve profits out of its operations and base their falsehoods on this assumption, the writer notes. He says that despite the difficulties each of the council members is facing at the moment, the situation is totally different from the Western media concept because the council has been established to launch cooperation in economic fields and help promote development and attain self sufficiency. The Western media, he adds, ignore the fact that the council members possess vast manpower and natural resources and are capable of playing a great role in the development of the whole region. To counter this onslaught, the council members are called on to launch an awareness campaign and open the way for citizens in the four Arab countries to hold an open dialogue which would contribute towards the aspired economic and social development.

The big challenge: Education

The following is a press release from UNESCO's regional office in Amman on the regional programme for the universalisation and renewal of primary education and the eradication of illiteracy in the Arab states by the year 2000.

WITH the beginning of the next decade which heralds the start of the twenty-first century, the Arab region will begin the implementation of the regional programme for the Universalisation and Renewal of Primary Education and the Eradication of Adult Illiteracy by the year 2000 (ARABUPEAL) which is based on the decision of the General Conference of UNESCO in its 24th session held in Paris in 1987.

By pursuance of this decision, UNESCO is completing its plans for universalisation of primary education and eradication of illiteracy in all regions of the world. UNESCO has already provided technical assistance of member states in Latin America and the Caribbean (1980), Africa (1983) and Asia and the Pacific (1986), where similar programmes are in operation now.

The justification for establishing this Arab cooperative regional programme was outlined by the two meetings of experts organised by UNESCO Regional Office for Education in the Arab States (UNEDBAS) as follows:

— UNESCO and the Arab states are both concerned with the creation of a society that provides education for all citizens, both children and adults, the achievement of regional and national development through self-reliance and democratic participation to guarantee the efficacy and continuity of developmental efforts and the rationalisation of decision-making, as well as seeking suitable solutions to problems impeding the optimal utilisation of national resources, particularly manpower.

— Moreover, there is urgent need for the creation of an evolving Arab culture, that would

match anticipated world trends in the year 2000. Such an evolving education should keep pace with the knowledge explosion, enhance social cohesion and justice, consolidate Arab cultural identity, and safeguard the Arab homeland against subversive plots aimed at shattering cultural bonds among the Arab states.

— The Arab region is anxious to develop an authentic scientific and technological base that would help find solutions to problems of socio-economic development and ensure a balanced interaction with scientific and technological advancement.

— All the foregoing considerations call for a comprehensive assessment of the present realities of primary and basic education, as well as literacy work in the Arab states, with a view to identifying positive aspects that could be used to reinforce the work, detecting constraints, and finding solutions to overcome them. Such an assessment would encourage regional and national endeavours for the universalisation of primary and basic education and the eradication of illiteracy in the Arab region by the year 2000.

— The Arab Nation is experiencing a crucial cultural conflict. In order for the Arab Nation to emerge successful from this conflict, it has to liberate itself from the shackles of the current crisis, which is manifested in the following:

— The limited capability of the Arab Nation to fully develop its resources and achieve optimal investment of these resources, particularly human resources that are expected to strike the 300 million mark by the year 2000.

— The widespread poverty and the low standards of living among the majority of the population in the region.

— The higher illiteracy rate which reached 56 per cent in 1985 (70 per cent among females) despite the fact that the Arab states have, during the past decade, achieved notable progress,

though with varying degrees, both quantitatively and qualitatively.

However, the final outcome still falls short of the objectives set forth in the Arab Literacy Strategy (1976) and the Arab Strategy for the Development of Education (1978).

Two advantages

This Regional Programme, as compared to other Arab previous efforts has two advantages: first, it seeks to link quantitative expansion to qualitative development. Second, it creates cooperative relations between Arab states and the international community, especially with those countries whose conditions are similar to those of the Arab Nation.

This Programme is designed to contribute to the development of Arab educational systems at the level of literacy and primary education so as to ensure the right to education for all, enhance socio-economic development and contribute to the release of creative energies in the society, and to consolidate Arab national and regional efforts and offer technical assistance and advisory services to the Arab member states, including training of personnel and exchange of experiences.

The political will of the member states in the region remains the main and most crucial factor in realising the objectives of this programme because the marginal handling hitherto of the issue of eradication of illiteracy has led to a situation, according to Arab experts, in which this issue is not yet a central issue in the dialogue between the state and the civic society and is not yet considered as an integral part of the official educational system. Subsequently, the eradication of illiteracy did not take its important place in the scale of priorities even though the massive numbers of illiterates form a serious weak point in the Arab body and in all economic, social and political aspects of life.

The regional programme falls within the framework of the activities of UNESCO Regional Office for Education in the Arab States (UNEDBAS). However, the volume of work required for the implementation of such a programme on the level of the whole Arab region, especially in its first years, necessitates the creation of a specialised unit within the Regional Office (UNEDBAS) to carry out the task. The unit will be fully equipped in terms of human and material resources to be responsible for all matters concerning the management of the programme, its support and development.

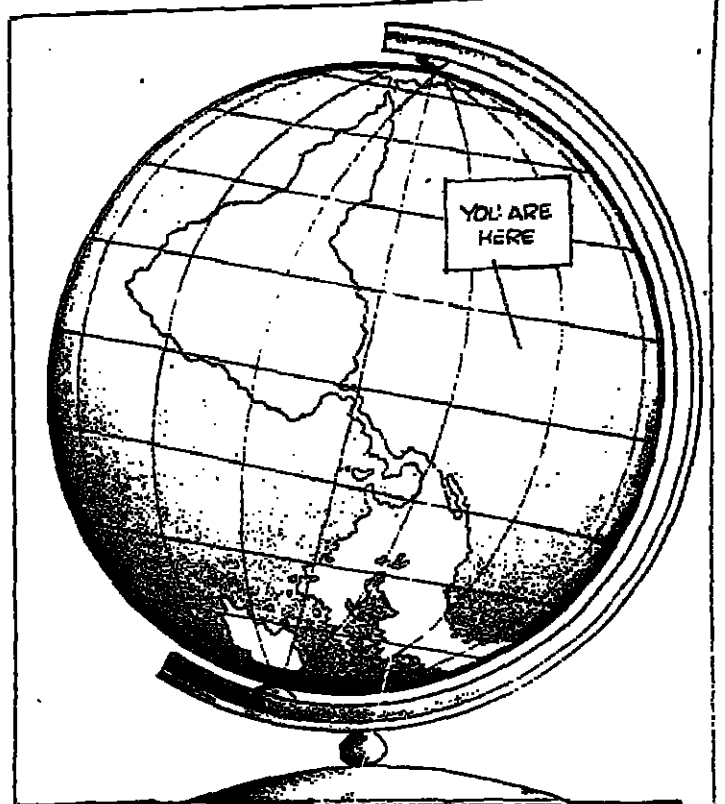
The implementation of the programme calls for full cooperation with all Arab states on one hand, and with the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation and the Arab Organisation for Literacy and Adult Education (ALESCO/ARLO) as well as the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States (ABEGS) on the other.

The activities under the proposed regional programme need special funding on both the regional and national levels. Potential sources for financing the programme include:

- General state budgets.
- Donations and grants-in-aid.
- Self-help and productive work projects.
- UNESCO's Regular Programme and budget, and
- Arab and international sources.

The planning phase of the programme will be completed by the end of 1989. It will be followed by the implementation phase, which will continue until 1998. Finally, the final evaluation (1999-2000) will be carried out by member states themselves in collaboration with the technical unit in UNEDBAS.

This is a general profile of the big challenge that faces the Arab region on the eve of the twenty-first century.



Geography 101



King underlines big power role in peace efforts

Continued from page 1

The King paid tribute to the Soviet Union's constructive efforts for peace, noting that Moscow had contributed positively into making the international situation conducive to peace. The effects of the Soviet contribution are beginning to be felt in various international and regional conflicts, Petra quoted the King as saying.

The King voiced happiness with the level of Soviet-Jordanian relations and cooperation in various fields.

Shevardnadze presented the Soviet views on an international peace conference on the Middle East and the practical measures

that should be adopted to convening it, Petra said. He emphasised that the current situation in the region offers new opportunities for peace which should not go unexploited.

The meeting, which included a dinner hosted by the King, was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, the King's political adviser Adnan Abu Odeh, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem and the delegation accompanying Shevardnadze as well as the Soviet ambassador to Jordan, Alexander Zinchuk.

Shevardnadze and the delegation accompanying him left Amman for Cairo late Sunday.

Earlier, Rifai held a round of talks with Shevardnadze and reviewed the latest developments in the region, with the main focus on the Middle East conflict, Petra said. Both sides agreed on the need to convene an international conference attended by all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Rifai said Shevardnadze also discussed the situation in Lebanon and means to achieve peace in the war-torn country while safeguarding its unity and independence.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouqan Hindawi and Qasem.

Qasem also held a meeting with Shevardnadze and explained Jordan's position that peace should be achieved through implementing United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, Petra said.

Qasem pointed out the congruence of the Jordanian and Soviet positions with the regard. He praised the Soviet position supporting the rights of Arabs and rejecting occupation as well as the Soviet Union's continued efforts to reach a just and comprehensive settlement of Palestinian question and a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In an arrival statement, the Soviet foreign minister lauded Jordan's role on both the Arab and international levels. "We in the Soviet Union greatly appreciate Jordan's steady political role and principles regarding the Middle East issue on the international level," Petra quoted him as saying.

"I have the honour to present His Majesty King Hussein with a

letter from President Mikhail Gorbachev regarding the most important international issues, including, naturally, that of the Middle East and the peace process," Shevardnadze added.

He noted that the Soviet leadership attributed great importance to the Jordan visit, not only because it was the first of its kind but because of the number of issues which the Soviet Union wished to discuss in detail with the Jordanian leadership.

Shevardnadze told reporters the Soviet Union had not taken a decision to resume diplomatic relations with Israel and a planned meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens in Cairo later this week signalled no change in Soviet policy.

At a banquet hosted by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Sharaa Friday night, Shevardnadze partly unveiled a Soviet proposal for a possible meeting of the five permanent members of the Security Council, "intensifying contacts" among the five, who, "acting in contact with the parties involved in the conflict," will assume "the function of a preparatory body for the conference."

"Third... the peace-making potential of the United Nations and of its secretary general could be engaged also in other mutually acceptable and flexible forms of constructive interaction among the parties involved in the settlement."

Shevardnadze expanded on the theme at a Damascus press conference before his departure for Amman Sunday saying that the five permanent members of the Security Council should take the lead in finding an acceptable formula for Middle East peace talks and that preparations for a peace conference should not take more than nine months.

He said he planned to discuss the Middle East with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker when they meet in Vienna March 6 on a "get acquainted" session and "to coordinate stands on the Middle East."

Baker reacted with caution to the Soviet plan unveiled by Shevardnadze, saying he did not think an early meeting of the big powers was the best way to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"I think there ought to be some quiet consultation done before we ever get close to that," Baker said on U.S. television Sunday. He said he understood the importance of American involvement in new Middle East talks, "but we're not sure the process is best served by a big high-level, high visibility international conference begun too early."

According to Baker, the situation is not so bad that talks should start quickly.

In his Damascus press conference, Shevardnadze assailed Israel's rejection of calls for peace.

He voiced hope that Israel would realise that security could not be achieved by suppressing the 14-month-old Palestinian up-

rising and continuing to occupy the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Syrian Golan Heights and southern Lebanon.

"Although the whole world is moving towards peace, Israel is moving in the opposite direction. It is ironic that whenever Arabs take the choice of peace, Israel takes the choice of war and aggression," Shevardnadze said.

Asked how Israel's opposition to an international conference could be overcome, he said: "Solving the Israeli obstinacy problem is not easy. What is required is a dialogue among the permanent members of the Security Council."

He said the aim of his meeting with Arens in Cairo would be to "try to see if there are any new elements for peace in the Middle East."

Shevardnadze praised the European Community's peace moves, especially a visit to the region this month by the foreign ministers of Spain, France and Greece.

"There is a big similarity between the Soviet and European positions regarding moves for Middle East peace," he said.

King voices profound thanks

Continued from page 1

President Maan Younes described the ACC as a "step in the right direction towards Arab integration and unity and it brings Arab citizens closer and unite their ranks."

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar welcomed the formation of the ACC and said it was in conformity with the U.N. Charter, which calls for establishment of

regional organisations and associations. In a statement carried by Egypt's Al Akhbar daily, the U.N. chief described the objectives of the ACC as constructive.

In London, the chairman of the Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding described Thursday's mini-summit in Baghdad as a very important gathering which took the first step towards comprehensive Arab unity.



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The closing date for submission tender is 12.00 hours local time Saturday, April 1, 1989.

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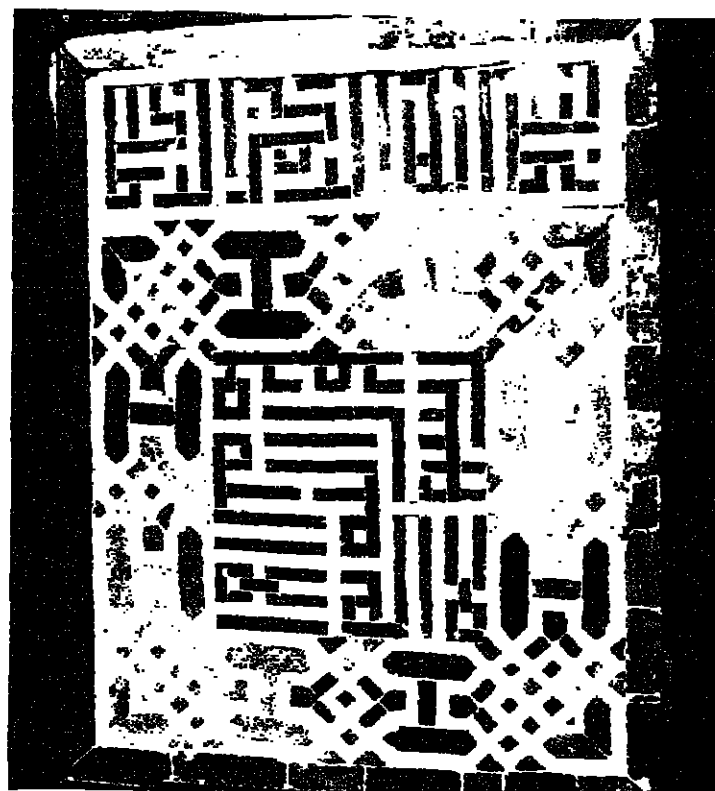
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Wasef Azar
Managing Director



A tile mosaic panel from 15th century Egypt. The square Kufic script in darker shades contains Bismillah at the top and Shahada, the Muslim declaration of faith, at the centre.



A Tiraz fragment, silk on linen, from the mediaeval (10th century) Near East, which carries the religious invocation right to left, then upside down and left to right.



Fragment of a stone frieze from 12th century Afghanistan

The living curves of Islamic calligraphy

Calligraphy has thrived as a medium of both religious and secular expression in the Muslim world. A London exhibition brings centuries of the art together under one roof.

By Maureen Ali

LONDON — Calligraphy remains a living medium of secular and religious expression in the Muslim world and the strength of calligraphic compositions has been proven once again by a major exhibition in London.

The Zamana Gallery in South Kensington has established a reputation for exhibitions featuring arts mainly from the Islamic countries. This reputation will be further enhanced by the latest Zamana programme, *Islamic Calligraphy*, which will run until the end of March.

The exhibition aims to illustrate the development of calligraphy, both religious and secular,

from its early beginnings to the present day. A special feature, however, is that most of the works have been loaned from private collections, giving the public a rare opportunity to see fine examples of the art.

The exhibition was assembled by the Museum of Art and History in Geneva where curators were able to call upon the support of prominent collectors like Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, Jean Paul Croisier and Rifaat Sheikh El-Ardi, as well as others in Europe and Malaysia who have preferred to remain anonymous.

The borrowed pieces worth hundreds of thousands of dollars have guaranteed a stimulating show which covers the full spec-

trum of calligraphic styles in a variety of media.

"We have concentrated primarily on four countries or areas to show the development and different aspects of the art," explained Claude Rissler, curator of the Geneva museum. "These are the Arab lands, Iran, India and Turkey," she said. "We have tried to achieve as much variety as possible in terms of styles of calligraphy and materials used."

One of the oldest and most interesting pieces on show is a portion of wooden frieze, circa 879, from the Ibn Tulun mosque in Egypt. This is one of only seven such detached pieces from the mosque and the only one in private hands.

Also from Egypt is a relatively rare fragment of poetry written in Naskh script on papyrus between the 9th and 10th century and a

Tiraz fragment, embroidered in silk on linen, from the 10th century.

Among the many fine examples of the Quran are two leaves from the celebrated blue vellum volume with a gold Kufic script. This distinctive dark blue manuscript was most probably written in North Africa in the 10th century and was thought to be originally housed in the Qayrawan Mosque in Tunisia.

In complete contrast there are two folios from a striking pink Quran written in bold, sweeping Maghribi script and illustrated with finely illuminated symbols indicating verse and section endings. This, in turn, readily contrasts with a page from an unusual 15th century Indian Quran. This is presented on a long, narrow format in black Bihari script, characteristic of Indian Qurans of the period. It has an illuminated heading and wherever the name

Allah appears, it is in gold. There are both Indian and Iranian influences to be found in a 19th century Quran from Chinese Turkestan, one of a few Quranic manuscripts that can be directly attributed to that part of the Islamic world.

Included in the Turkish section are some of the finest examples of Ottoman calligraphy including two pages from a Quran dated between 1500 and 1510 and signed by the legendary Ottoman calligrapher, Sheikh Hamdullah. Having perfected and standardised the Naskh script, his work had enormous influence on the development of the art of calligraphy.

The man recognised as Sheikh Hamdullah's successor was Hafiz Uthman (1642-98). His skills are illustrated in a one-page collection of the Hadith, dated Istanbul, 1671. These are written in a combination of Thulth and Naskh

scripts with gold and colour illustration.

Ottoman calligraphic skills are also evident in a series of firmans (decrees) belonging to Sultans Sulaiman I and Muhammed IV; in a group of works entitled *Calligraphic Compositions in ink, gouache and gold*, dated 1845, and in several stunningly illuminated manuscripts.

The art of illumination is also represented in a number of works from Iran, which include a double page from a manuscript from Mashhad, circa 1582, containing verses by the princely ruler Ibrahim Mirza.

Among the exhibit from India is an immaculately executed album page (circa 1645) with calligraphy and painting by the well known Mughal calligrapher, Mir Ali Heravi, whose skill was much admired by the Emperor Jahangir. Though the majority of the

exhibits are works on paper, the full range on show includes 12th century Afghan stone friezes, a 14th century Indian marble tombstone, a 15th century Egyptian Kufic mosaic panel and a number of striking ceramic bowls from 10th century Iran or Transoxiana.

There is a particularly fine piece of mid-16th century metalwork in the form of a delicately wrought steel plate, and a finely engraved Indian brass seal with ebony handle, dated 1651 and belonging to the Mughal emperor Shahjahan.

The exhibition is designed to appeal to connoisseurs and amateurs alike. The collection

not only highlights the great diversity in style which developed in calligraphy over the centuries, it also illustrates this through the work of several recognised masters.

Many of the pieces on show rival those found in leading museums throughout the world and have attracted enthusiastic audiences in Geneva and Dublin where the exhibition was held before arriving in London. At the end of March it will move back to Switzerland for a summer in Zurich and then on to the National Gallery in Amman, Jordan, until the end of November. — Academic File.

INVITATION TO BID

Date: Feb. 20th, 89
Loan No: 2587 - JO
Bid No: 4/W2/89

- The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan from the World Bank (IBRD) in various currencies towards the cost of a Second Urban Development Project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the Contract for North Russeifa (2B) Schools & Community Buildings and North Russeifa (2A) Emergency Center. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined under the "Guidelines for Procurement" of the (IBRD) who have been prequalified in October, 1988 for Third Urban Development Project Contracts.
- The Urban Development Department (UDD) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for furnishing the necessary labour, materials, equipment and services for the construction and completion, of schools, Health Center, Combined Community Center and Women's Training Centre at North Russeifa (2B) Site and an Emergency Center at North Russeifa (2A) Site. The total built-up area is about (16800) sq.m.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the head of Tendering Division, and inspect the bidding documents at, the offices of the UDD, UDD Marka Housing Project, Telephone: 899361/62/63 P.O. Box: 927198 Amman - Jordan. Telex: 22249 UDD JO
- A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any prequalified interested eligible bidder on the submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of JD (250). Additional sets of documents may be purchased each at the same price.
- All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in an acceptable form of not less than (40,000) JD and must be delivered to the Director General, UDD, P.O. Box 927198 Amman - Jordan on or before 12:00 noon local time, on April 19th, 1989.
- Bids will be opened in the presence of those bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 12:00 noon local time, on April 19th, 1989 at the offices of the UDD, UDD Marka Housing Project, Amman. Telephone: 899361/62/63 P.O. Box: 927198 Amman - Jordan. Telex: 22249 UDD JO

An island of spices, perfumes

By Robert Powell
Reuter

MORONI — A white mercenary in battledress stands guard on the apron as the visitor's aircraft touches down at Moroni airport. Behind him, two black members of the presidential guard tote automatic rifles. Near the terminal building a French officer in the khaki uniform of the Comoros Islands gendarmerie chats with officials.

The political fortunes of this island nation of 450,000 people are closely tied to France. South Africa and the handful of white mercenaries who lead the personal bodyguard of President Ahmed Abdallah.

The islands, situated half way between the African mainland and the northern tip of Madagascar, were colonised by France during the 19th century and became a sleepy corner of the French empire producing spices and perfume.

In 1975, three of the islands unilaterally declared independence, but the fourth island, Mayotte, which had rejected independence in a referendum a

year earlier, chose to remain French.

Barely three weeks later, the newly proclaimed President of the Comoros, Ahmed Abdallah, was overthrown by a civilian coup, whose leaders employed a band of mercenaries led by Frenchman Bob Denard to capture Abdallah.

But history turned full circle three years later when Denard led a mercenary invasion of Grande Comore, the main island of the Archipelago, and restored Abdallah to power.

Since then, Abdallah's 300-strong presidential guard has been commanded by white mercenaries and Denard has become a powerful presidential adviser.

S. African influence

Diplomats say the 70-year-old president might now find it difficult to dispense with the mercenaries — estimated by diplomats to be about 25 in number — even if he wished to.

South Africa's influence has grown tremendously in the Comoros over the last five years. "We pay a fee to be here and if

Abdallah wants to pay his mercenaries with it, that is his business," Roger Harding, South Africa's diplomatic representative in Moroni told Reuters.

Harding declined to say how much South Africa pays the Comoros. The islands are a strategically important foothold for South Africa in the Indian Ocean.

South African Airways has landing rights at Moroni and this offers Pretoria a useful staging post for flights to Europe and Asia.

The showpiece of South Africa's presence here is a \$25 million hotel project.

South Africa's Sun International group has used loans guaranteed by the South African government to recondition a 25-room hotel near the capital Moroni and it is due to open a 180-room tourist complex at the northern tip of Grande Comore island later this year.

To begin with at least, the new hotel will be filled with South African holidaymakers arriving on the weekly South African Airways flight from Johannesburg. "It is the biggest investment

that has ever been made in the Comoros," says Harding.

South African tourists are a common sight on the Comoros, and the islands are a small but growing market for South African exports.

However, South Africa's presence in the Comoros is still dwarfed by that of France.

Oysters from Brittany

Paris provides technocrats to run the civil service, cash to meet the budget deficit, officers to train the gendarmerie and a military adviser for the president.

The Comorian franc is tied to the French franc, France is the country's biggest aid donor and fresh oysters from Brittany can sometimes be found on the menu of the Itisandra Hotel.

The mercenary-led presidential guard is the country's first line of defence against external attack and it has also been used on a number of occasions to put down local uprisings.

A concrete bunker now overlooks Itisandra beach near the presidential palace where Denard's mercenaries landed in 1978 to reinstate Abdallah.

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U.S., EC form task force to resolve dispute over meat

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. and European negotiators agreed Saturday to a 75-day cooling off period in their increasingly abrasive trade war involving American beef containing growth hormones, as they intensified their search for a compromise to resolve the dispute.

Trade representative Carla Hills, holding her first discussions as America's top trade negotiator, said that substantial progress had been made in the two days of talks with representatives of the 12-nation European Community (EC).

The two sides agreed to establish a high-level task force to study the issue over the next 75 days with the goal of coming up with ways to export hormone-free American beef to Europe.

The task force will also consider an American demand that a panel of experts should be established to consider whether growth hormones constitute a health risk.

"We made good progress in working out a procedure with respect to our differences in the hormone area," Hills told reporters after the meeting ended. "We have a high-level task force to deal with that issue, to work out the differences if at all possible."

Frans Andriessen, the top trade negotiator for the European Community, said that he was encouraged by the talks with the new administration of President George Bush and predicted "our good will and good spirit" would guide the way to a solu-

tion. Both Bush and European officials have expressed a desire to defuse the trade dispute, fearing that the battle could aggravate tensions just at a time when the new administration is trying to forge closer ties with its European allies.

The current trade dispute began Jan. 1 when the Europeans imposed a ban on shipments of U.S. beef because the meat contained growth hormones used to fatten American cattle.

The United States charged that the European action, which affected about \$100 million in annual meat shipments, represented an unfair trade barrier and that there was no scientific evidence that the hormones were a health threat.

In retaliation, the Americans slapped 100 per cent tariffs on \$100 million worth of European products, ranging from canned tomatoes to fruit wines and instant coffee. Those tariffs are just now showing up in higher prices at U.S. grocery stores.

The weekend negotiations were held in an effort to avoid a counter-retaliatory step threatened by the Europeans Monday, when the governing body of the European Commu-

nity will meet to consider imposing 100 per cent tariffs on \$100 million of American exports of walnuts and dried fruit.

Andriessen said he could not speak for the European Council of Ministers but he indicated that the progress made in the talks would likely postpone the second round of retaliation.

Andriessen told reporters at a later briefing that the United States had indicated it would lower its \$100 million in tariffs by an amount equal to the shipments of hormone-free beef that the United States is able to make.

He said consideration would be given to doubling the quota for high-grade beef. Last year, the United States shipped \$32 million worth of such beef to Europe. Such a step would make it more profitable for U.S. ranchers to raise hormone-free beef.

Hills and Andriessen also reported progress between the two sides over the U.S. demand to end all trade-distorting farm subsidies, a position the Europeans have strongly objected to.

A U.S. official, briefing reporters on the condition that his name not be used, said that the United States offered a new proposal on the contentious farm subsidy issue. The matter, he said, was to be discussed by Hills, Andriessen, Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter and Ray MacSharry, the European Community's commissioner in charge of agriculture, during talks on March 10 and 11 in Europe.

The current round of talks being held to liberalise world trade, known as the Uruguay Round, have been stalled because of American and European differences over farm subsidies. European official characterised the get-acquainted talks as helpful in understanding the position of the new administration.

Trade between the United States and the European Community totalled \$165 billion last year, making the 12-nation Community America's largest trading partner.

Bush was sworn in last month. Referring to the beef dispute in his first address to Congress, he said last week that the major industry countries needed "to rise above fighting about beef hormones to building a better future, to move from protectionism to progress."

A basis for compromise on the beef question was put forward by Texas Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower.

The Texas plan would involve isolating untreated cattle from birth through slaughter, giving them tests for artificial hormones and establishing enforcement procedures. Texas officials say that similar programmes meeting European standards have been proposed by Brazil and New Zealand.

American officials have been anxious to get the dispute resolved because the battle had raised questions about American beef.

"The health ban is a signal that something is wrong with our beef," Hills said last week. "Nothing is wrong with our beef." Nearly half of American cattle are now treated with growth hormones. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has maintained throughout the dispute that the daily production of hormones in humans, even in children, is far higher than the minuscule levels left in meat from treated animals.

Exchange rates and continuing quotas on exports to the United States have led Japanese automakers to make the 1980s the decade of "transplanting" — producing autos in the markets in which they will be sold.

The export quotas began in fiscal 1981 to allow the U.S. industry breathing space to recover from increasing Japanese imports. But the Japanese have responded by relocating production overseas — they have already established eight factories in North America — and have fallen short of the U.S. quota of 2.3 million cars for the last two years.

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Kremlin endorses economic devolution

MOSCOW (R) — The Kremlin has approved plans to give the Soviet Union's 15 constituent republics more power to make their own economic decisions, the Soviet newspaper Pravda said Saturday.

The proposals, which will soon be published, were part of an austerity package aimed at curbing the country's serious economic and financial ills, Pravda said in a report on a meeting of the Communist Party's ruling Politburo.

Pravda said republican governments would be able to decide for themselves how heavily they taxed cooperatives, the Kremlin's experiment in limited private enterprise. They would also be given more autonomy over environmental measures.

But it said the Politburo reaffirmed earlier warnings that government spending must be cut and revenue increased in an effort to reduce the large budget deficit, estimated by some Soviet economists at 100 billion roubles (\$160 billion).

The main cuts in spending would come from reducing the financing of centralised capital investments in production, defence and administration.

Revenues would be increased by "raising the efficiency of production, eliminating loss-making and using more actively diverse forms of mobilising money resources in all sectors of public production."

The meeting, which was held Thursday, was attended by party and government leaders from all the republics.

Pravda said the proposals would "restructure the management of the economy and social sphere in the union republics on the basis of self-management and self-financing." But it gave few concrete details.

The plan appeared to go some way at least to satisfying growing demands, particularly from richer republics such as Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, that their standard

of living be tied more closely to the amount they produce.

At present, the richer republics effectively subsidise the poorer ones by making relatively larger contributions to the federal budget in Moscow.

"It is proposed to establish a direct link between economic development and the increase in well-being of the population, resources at the disposal of each republic and the final results of its economic activities," Pravda said.

"New mechanisms of forming the republics' budgets are aimed at resolving this task," it said.

Among other measures, the Politburo also again pledged to put more consumer goods into the shops, although it said this would come from increased domestic production, implicitly rejecting calls from some economists for more imports.

In what could indicate disagreement among the leadership, an earlier text of the meeting released by the official news agency TASS Friday said Politburo members had called to increase the share of consumer goods in imports.

But the phrase was later deleted from the text without explanation and did not appear in the Pravda version Saturday.

Researchers say reforms failing to revive farming

Meanwhile, evidence is mounting that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's economic reforms are failing in one area they desperately need to succeed: Agriculture.

Soviet and American researchers say agricultural production has stagnated as farmer and bureaucratic resistance to perestroika — restructuring — obstructs the Kremlin goal of making the Soviet economy more responsive to free market forces.

The stagnation is forcing Moscow to print and borrow money

to import grain and subsidise consumers, thus fuelling inflation and preventing the import of consumer and industrial goods that could better help the economy, they say.

"A year ago, we were not as sure as we are now that agriculture is not doing well under perestroika," said a Soviet specialist in the U.S. Agriculture Department, Ken Gray, at a Harvard University seminar on Soviet agriculture last week.

Moscow set ambitious average annual grain production targets of 250 to 255 million tonnes in its 1986-1990 five-year plan. But production in the plan's first three years averaged only 205.5 million and is not expected to improve much.

Government subsidies of food rose to about 77 billion roubles (\$124.6 billion) last year, compared with about three billion (\$4.8 billion) during the 1970s, said Karen Brooks, a Soviet specialist with the University of Minnesota.

The spending helped fuel a 100 billion-rouble (\$165 billion) deficit which amounts to a crippling 11 per cent of the Soviet gross national product.

A Soviet agricultural economist and adviser to Gorbachev, Vladimir Tikhonov, said the farm economy could not be improved without even more far-reaching reforms that struck at the heart of the Soviet system of collective and state-run agriculture.

At the Harvard seminar, he proposed virtually ending state management of farms and abolishing or drastically curtailing Gosagroprom, the agriculture "superministry" created by Gorbachev in 1985.

Tikhonov said the government should stop managing farms and act only as a landlord, collecting rent from individuals or cooperatives controlling the land with long-term leases.

But he stopped short of recommending the abolition of the traditional Soviet system of collective farms or of state ownership of farm land.

Tikhonov said farmers should be able to make their own planting, pricing and marketing decisions.

Gorbachev sought last year to let individual farmers or small cooperatives lease land and market surplus goods privately after filling state quotas.

But the farmers still have to buy materials from the collectives and state farms, which often assert first priority for the materials. Likewise, the state still has priority for the crops, which it buys at fixed prices.

Brooks noted that the rental programme was never formally made law, giving farmers little recourse when problems arose.

As a result, the reforms had negligible effect. Most foods are still not available on the markets, black markets are expanding, inflation is on the rise and Gosagroprom officials are reasserting authority to allocate products and fix prices.

Tikhonov said that, under his proposal, the state would have to negotiate prices. The farmer would be free to sell elsewhere and would not have to buy materials from the collectives.

But the government could still use tax and credit incentives to influence production and set upper and lower price limits.

American experts welcomed his ideas but said they were not without pitfalls.

Fred Crook, a China specialist with the Agriculture Department, said the Communist Party could continue to exert control over agriculture by controlling the granting of leases. Similar problems had slowed reform in China, he said.

Marshall Goldman, director of Harvard's Russian Research Centre, said that as long as the socialised farms existed, Soviet leaders would sabotage any efforts at private farming.

Thatcher has promoted home ownership as part of her campaign to roll back socialism, allowing occupants of rented public housing to buy the property at preferential terms.

Today, 64 per cent of Britain's housing is occupant-owned, compared with 55 per cent in 1978, the Building Societies Association said.

But now Thatcher says that battling inflation, which has jumped to an annual rate of 6.8 per cent from 3.3 per cent a year ago, is her top priority — and interest rates are her main weapon.

Brett, of the Homeowners Association, said, "we are predicting a massive rise in the number of mortgage arrears and repossession."

In 1985, when mortgage interest rates went up to 14 per cent, mortgage arrears doubled, Brett said.

Today, some 300,000 people are in arrears, he said. Last year, 25,000 families saw their homes repossessed, Brett said.

"As soon as someone falls behind in mortgage payments, even if they don't get repossessed, they will get a bad reputation financially and will in fact be blighted for life," he added.

The Building Societies Association said it doesn't have up-to-date statistics available yet, but that it expects arrears and repossessions to decline because unemployment is down.

Fastest mortgage rate increase in fifty years squeezes Britons

LONDON (AP) — A father of four has put the family's Liverpool home on the market, and is looking for something cheaper. An unmarried Shrewsbury couple bought a house, but now can't afford the cost of a wedding.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's stated aim of transforming Britain into "a property-owning democracy" has produced an army of new homeowners. But many are now being squeezed by her determination to reduce inflation by driving up interest rates.

Interest rates on mortgages have risen at the fastest rate in 50 years, from 9.75 per cent last summer to 13.5 per cent now. As a result, many of Britain's 15 million homeowners saw an enormous increase in their monthly mortgage payments and some risk losing their homes, homebuyers' advocates say.

Stephanie Manasche, a single mother in Harrow, says her monthly payments have risen from £42 (\$73.50) to £262 (\$458.50). She said she had to negotiate a temporary agreement with her lender to pay only the interest, reducing her monthly payment to £253 (\$442.37).

But she says she still is having trouble keeping up. "It makes me feel very, very frightened, obviously," she says.

The crunch also could make Britons lose confidence in buying real estate and return to renting, undermining Thatcher's initial

aim of promoting home-ownership, some advocates say.

"The present government is pulling the rug out from underneath their feet," said Michael Brett, secretary-general of the National Association of Homeowners in Shrewsbury.

John Doling, a professor at the University of Birmingham's Department of Social Policy, warned that some homeowners pinched by the increased costs "will have to economise on food and they won't eat properly."

"Many people will be deeply depressed, deeply suffering from what has happened," he says.

But lenders say defaults are more often caused by unemployment and marital break-ups than by higher interest rates. They stress their eagerness to help borrowers in difficulty with such measures as extending the term of a mortgage.

"As long as those people come in and let us know, there are things we can do," said Mark Hemmings, a spokesman for the Halifax Building Society, the country's biggest mortgage lender.

The monthly payment on a new £40,000 (\$70,000) 25-year adjustable mortgage has risen to \$388.42 (\$679.74) from about \$304.93 (\$535.63) last summer, the Building Societies Association said.

Most mortgages come with fluctuating interest rates. Fixed rates are rarely offered, and 40 per cent of mortgage-holders have their monthly payment adjusted once a year. On the other, about 60 per cent, the rate can be changed at the discretion of the lenders, with little or no notice.

Repayments are tax-deductible on only the first £30,000 (\$52,000) of a mortgage.

The squeeze worsened last year when young buyers rushed into the market and overcommitted themselves, trying to beat the August deadline for abolishing

the double tax-relief given to unmarried, joint mortgage-holders.

Doling also said that "when people see prices going up rapidly they feel they have to be active in the housing market right now before it is too late."

Last June, Britain's Conservative government began raising interest rates, stalling the boom in house-buying and making it difficult for homeowners to sell at a profit.

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Japanese automakers moving from exports to overseas expansion

TOKYO (AP) — After a year of booming domestic sales but continued decline in exports, Japanese automakers are introducing new models and boosting overseas production to capture more of the global market.

Toyota, Nissan, Honda, Mitsubishi and Mazda all saw increased sales in Japan last year — records for all but Nissan — but reported sluggish exports, largely due to the continued high value of the yen.

Exports, which fell 3.2 per cent in 1988, are expected to continue dwindling this year, in part because of the yen's strength, which makes Japanese exports more expensive.

The situation for vehicle exports is expected to remain severe overall," Nissan President Yutaka Kume said in January. "While shipments to Europe continue to be firm, exports to the United States will encounter a more highly competitive environment due to a gradual downturn in the American economy."

Japanese companies produce about 29 per cent of all motor vehicles made in the world, according to statistics compiled by the Motor Vehicle Manufacturing Association of America and Japan Automobile Manufacturing Association.

Half of the 12.7 million cars, trucks and buses made in Japan in 1988 were exported. In 1987, the last year for which comparative figures are available, 12.2 million motor vehicles were made in Japan, well ahead of America's 10.9 million.

Exchange rates and continuing quotas on exports to the United States have led Japanese automakers to make the 1980s the decade of "transplanting" — producing autos in the markets in which they will be sold.

The export quotas began in fiscal 1981 to allow the U.S. industry breathing space to recover from increasing Japanese imports. But the Japanese have responded by relocating production overseas — they have already established eight factories in North America — and have fallen short of the U.S. quota of 2.3 million cars for the last two years.

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Ford's fourth-quarter earnings came on sales of \$23.91 billion. During the same period last year, Ford earned \$20.9 billion on sales of \$20.9 billion.

For the year, earnings came to \$10.96 a share, compared with \$9.05 a share on profits of \$4.63 billion in 1987. Sales for 1988 were \$92.45 billion, compared with \$79.89 billion the year before, an increase of 15.7 per cent.

Ford's fourth-quarter earnings set a company record for profits during the last three months of any year, and extended to 11 the number of three-month periods that Ford has had record quarterly profits.

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Globetrotters coming to town

AMMAN (J.T.) — The internationally renowned sport comedy basketball team, the Harlem Globetrotters, will be in Amman May 18 to play against their rivals, the Washington Generals at the Sports City.

The Amman game comes as part of the Globetrotter's 1989 world tour, sponsored by the Reynolds Tobacco Company, and on the local level, by Royal Jordanian and Aramex international courier.

Currently in their 63rd season, the Globetrotters currently hold a world-record sports winning streak of 6,278 games. They have appeared in more than 100 countries, watched by more than one hundred million sports fans.

The Trotters are also expected



to appear in the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Iraq and Turkey.

Stars of the 1989 Trotters include the astonishing six foot nine inches Clown Prince of Basketball James "Twiggy" Sanders; trick dribbler Tyrone Brown; three-point terror Clyde "The

Glide" Austin; seven foot rebounding expert Dedrick Jackson; the madcap Mathew Jackson; ferocious defencemen Kelvin Hildreth and Clyde Sinclair; the dynamic dunkmaster J.B. "Downtown" Brown; the Smooth Operator Sterling Forbes and the talented court magician Quentin Jackson.

College star on drugs charges

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — The University of Oklahoma, plagued by a series of unrelated incidents since its football team was slapped with a three-year probation, has a new scandal — the arrest of starting quarterback Charles Thompson on suspicion of selling cocaine.

Thompson, whom coach Barry Switzer had suspended earlier in the day, appeared last Tuesday for a detention hearing before U.S. magistrate Robin Cauthron in Oklahoma City. He was arrested Monday by agents of the federal bureau of investigation, after allegedly selling the drug to an undercover agent.

The hearing was continued until Wednesday so prosecutors

could provide evidence in support of a high bail for Thompson. U.S. attorney Bill Price said Thompson faces up to 20 years in prison and \$1 million in fines if he is convicted.

Price said Thompson's arrest culminated a six-month investigation. Thompson allegedly sold 17 grammes of cocaine to an FBI agent for \$1,400 Jan. 26.

Price wouldn't say if any other people were involved in the investigation. Norman police Lt. Leonard Judy said more arrests are expected later this week, but, "from what I understand, Charles Thompson is the only person involved as far as the Oklahoma athletic programme is concerned." David Swank, interim president

of the university, said today Thompson has been suspended from the university.

Swank noted that the university's regents had adopted recommendations last week aimed at addressing problems in the athletic programme.

We know these problems will not all be resolved immediately, but we're committed to correcting the problems that led to the recent series of events and putting into place lasting solutions," Swank said.

Thompson, 20, thus becomes the fifth Oklahoma football player to be suspended since the NCAA placed the Sooners' probation in December, mostly for violations on recruiting players.

The Sooners' woes started in Orlando, Fla., when some players allegedly severely damaged a hotel room where they were staying during the week leading up to the Citrus Bowl college football game against Clemson early this year.

On Jan. 13, starting cornerback Jerry Parks allegedly wounded teammate Zarak Peters following an argument in the athletic dorm. Parks was suspended from the team and charged with shooting with intent to injure. He is at home in Fort Bend, Texas, awaiting his preliminary hearing.

English Soccer standings

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Arsenal	24	15	6	3	50	24	51
Norwich	24	13	8	3	36	25	47
Manchester United	24	10	9	5	34	19	39
Nottingham Forest	24	9	11	4	34	26	38
Coventry	24	10	7	7	33	25	37
Liverpool	23	9	9	5	30	20	36
Millwall	23	10	6	7	35	30	36
Derby	23	10	5	8	26	18	35
Everton	24	8	9	7	29	26	33
Wimbledon	23	9	5	9	27	30	32
Aston Villa	25	7	9	9	34	38	30
Middlesbrough	24	8	6	10	30	36	30
Luton	24	7	8	9	27	29	29
Southampton	25	6	10	9	37	47	28
Tottenham	24	6	9	9	34	36	27
Queens Park Rangers	25	6	8	11	24	24	26
Charlton	24	5	9	10	26	35	24
Sheffield Wednesday	24	5	9	10	19	34	24

Vaulters looking for magic 20 feet record

INGLEWOOD, California (AP) — Two weeks ago, Rodion Gataullin of the Soviet Union held the world indoor best in the pole vault, having cleared 19 feet, 9 inches (6.02 metres) in a meet at Gornal in his native country on Jan. 22.

The thrill of victory lasted only a week — until fellow Soviet Sergei Bubka cleared 6.03 metres in Osaka, Japan.

"I didn't even have time to get used to having the record," Gataullin said Tuesday, speaking through an interpreter. "That's why it wasn't hard for me to lose it."

Gataullin feels even greater heights are in the making sometime this year, either by himself or Bubka, of whom Gataullin said, "I would not say we are friends, we are colleagues."

"I think 20 feet (6.1 metres) is possible," said Gataullin. "Bubka has been ready for a long time to make that jump, and I think it could happen for either one of us."

"I've said all along he's the next great vaulter, and he's going to get even better."

Gataullin also admitted he has an eye on 6.04 or 6.05 metres.

He hails from Tashkent, located in the south of the Soviet Union "and not too far from Afghanistan," he pointed out with a grin. Now 23, he is pursuing a career in sports medicine and hopes to finish his studies sometime this summer.

First, however, is a career in the pole vault. He was an Olympic finalist last summer in South Korea and anticipates having a good indoor season once he makes a few adjustments.

"I have problems with the tracks over here," he explained. "In Europe they are made of rubber. In the U.S., they are made of wood. It's hard to explain... I just have to get used to it, I guess."

"If I have some luck, I will go high."

Stella Artois tennis

Becker beats McEnroe

MILAN, Italy (AP) — Top-seeded Boris Becker of West Germany and unheralded Alexander Volkov of the Soviet Union qualified for Sunday's final of the \$492,500 Stella Artois indoor tennis championships.

Becker ousted John McEnroe and Volkov surprised Eric Jelen in Saturday's semifinal action.

Becker, 21, began with a double fault but ended triumphantly in his match against the 30-year-old U.S. player, winning 6-2, 6-3.

The unseeded 21-year-old Soviet player won a third-set tiebreaker 9-7 to upset Jelen, a Davis Cup teammate of Becker's, 6-2, 2-6, 7-6 at Milan's Palatrussardi arena.

Volkov earned his first final ever in a major tournament, featuring an unprecedented clash with Becker. A first prize of \$75,000 is at stake.

The left-handed Soviet, ranked 61st in the world, alternated fine passing shots with unforced mistakes and captured a berth in the final after spoiling six match points with a fine lob.

Jelen, 23, made a streak of decisive errors, including a double fault, in the tie-breaker.

Becker, who led West Germany to victory in the Davis Cup final against Sweden in December, took one hour and 34 minutes to score his fourth victory in five encounters with McEnroe, the tournament's third seed.

Becker, who had struggled against unseeded Swede Christian Betstroom in Friday's quarterfinals, showed improved determination and concentration against McEnroe.

His powerful serve — he fired 10 aces in the two sets — was decisive in ending McEnroe's hopes to score his fifth victory in Milan and take his first major

McEnroe, ranked ninth in the world, was off to a slow start and plunged to a 0-3 deficit, losing his serve in the second game.

Becker, ranked no. 4, moved to 5-2 and again broke McEnroe's serve in the eighth game to win the set 6-2 in 39 minutes. The West German player wasted three break points before exploiting the fourth.

The hot-tempered McEnroe protested a questionable call and quarreled with the referee in the initial game of the second set.

McEnroe: bowed but not cowed

MILAN, Italy (AP) — John McEnroe said Saturday that 1989 will not be his last season on the tennis circuit.

"I think to have a couple more chances (to win Wimbledon)," the 30-year-old American player said after being beaten 6-2, 6-3 by West German Boris Becker.

McEnroe discussed his future at Milan's Palatrussardi arena following his semifinal loss in the \$492,500 Stella Artois indoor championships.

"I did not respond as good as I needed at the beginning," McEnroe said after the match. "However he played a tremendous match, a match of great concentration... he played some great shots."

McEnroe, the third-seeded player in the Milan tournament, said that he will play in the next Grand Prix tournaments in Lyon, France, next week and in Dallas Feb. 27-March 5.

"I have not yet made a detailed programme for the following period. For sure I want to relax and rest for some weeks before the Davis Cup. I need to be fresh for the Davis Cup."

McEnroe will be on the U.S. team which will play France in the Davis Cup quarterfinals April 7-9.

He then plans to play the tournament in Tokyo and move to England four weeks before Wimbledon, which is scheduled June 26-July 9.

McEnroe said on his birthday here Thursday that he has something to achieve before retiring — winning another Grand Slam tournament.

The four Grand Slam competitions are Wimbledon and the French, Australian and U.S. Opens.

McEnroe won Wimbledon three times between 1981 and 1984, the U.S. Open four times, was a finalist in the 1984 French Open and was a semifinalist in the 1983 Australian Open.

Shortly after his defeat in the singles, McEnroe teamed with Swiss Jakob Hasek in a successful doubles match.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND QAMAR SHARIF
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A BIT OF EGG NOG HELPS

North-South vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ Q J 10
♥ Q 5 3
♦ Q J
♣ A J 6 4 3

WEST
♠ Void
♥ A K 8 6 2
♦ K 9
♣ K 10 9 8 7 5

by the time it was his turn to bid. Undaunted, he entered the fray with six spades.

West was not the sort to be pushed around, especially under the circumstances prevailing. He bid seven hearts, smartly doubled by North. But South did not feel like defending, so he pulled to seven spades, doubled by West in a fit of pique.

West led the king of hearts, ruffed by declarer. The queen of clubs was covered by the king and taken by the ace. When East showed out, declarer ran all his trumps, and West was hopelessly squeezed in hearts and clubs. He had to hold the king of hearts to guard against the queen becoming a trick, so he could hang on to only one club. The lady was cleared from the table, and the jack-six of clubs took the last two tricks. The score was 3,470 points.

At the other table East bought the contract at seven diamonds doubled, and South led the queen of clubs. Dummy's king was put up and the ace was ruffed out. After two rounds of trumps, a heart to the king revealed that North had a sure trick in that suit. So, the ten of clubs was led for a ruffing finesse. Whether or not North covered, declarer would be able to set up the suit for three heart discards, since the ace of hearts was still on the board as an entry. That was 1,630 points, making a total of 4,100 points for four very happy players.

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

"As Charted By The Carroll R. Fisher Astrological Foundation"

GENERAL TENDENCIES: When you feel uncertain, it is not the time to act. The full moon lunar eclipse in the variable signs of Pisces and Virgo, can lead to purposeful change in a positive sense and change in a negative sense.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Many aspects of this full moon day can feel confusing if you let it. You are a self-sufficient person, and that style brings rewards.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Keep activities close to home. Iron out the kinks. Talk out plans with those affected, and avoid taking others for granted.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You can take advantage of a new situation. Make safety a priority. Ignore annoying circumstances that do not directly affect you.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You may be called upon to comfort someone who has an emotional problem. Do something to help. Develop closer attachments.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Your romantic judgment of another may need to be re-examined. Avoid taking chances. Seek out new social opportunities.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Find a mentally active friend to be with.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Look out for an outlet that will improve your gift of ESP. Be mindful of gains and accomplishment. Avoid dwelling on the negative.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Take a look at where your talents fair best. Study and review investment opportunities. Contact parents or close relatives.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Your independent mind and curiosity can become unwielded when you feel restricted or trapped in a situation. Reorganize your time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) No action is a dilemma when you feel energetic. Forcing activity and progress will lead to disagreements and rebellion.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Your sentimental nature can expect the flaws in a weak person to vanish. Associate with those who strengthen your position.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Cramping too many activities into one time period can cause chaos and exhaust you. Keep to the sunny side of your nature.

THE Daily Crossword by William Baxley

ACROSS

- 1 Fruit seeds
- 2 Oscar s.p.
- 3 Neener one
- 4 Dill old style
- 5 Proque
- 6 "Jane ..."
- 7 Of discipline
- 8 Autocrat
- 9 Rapreux
- 10 Undergoes change
- 11 School org.
- 12 Borge or Anderson
- 13 Breakfast dishes
- 14 Impedes
- 15 Ponder
- 16 Swords
- 17 Caserta cash
- 18 Bow
- 19 Unit of energy
- 20 Swindle
- 21 Unusual
- 22 Fr. revolutionary
- 23 Chums
- 24 More sveits
- 25 Fr. explorer
- 26 Lucrate
- 27 de mer
- 28 Place for safekeeping
- 29 Spongy
- 30 Showy
- 31 Rainbow
- 32 Nullity
- 33 Sp. bull
- 34 Sole
- 35 Concept
- 36 Br. gun
- 37 Showy flowers for short
- 38 Aerle

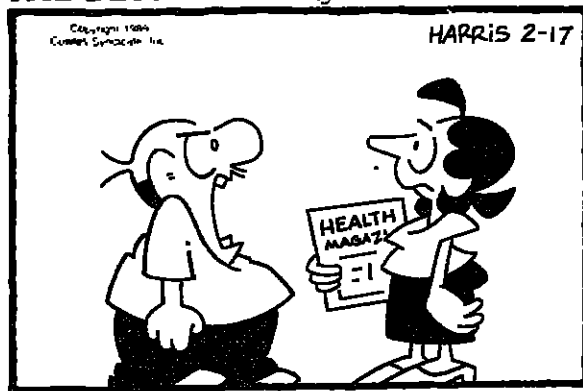
DOWN

- 1 Young salmon
- 2 Arrow poison
- 3 Wooded plugs
- 4 Flack
- 5 Synthetic fiber
- 6 Abate
- 7 Fornicary
- 8 leant
- 9 Wander
- 10 Decalves
- 11 Relating to lockjaw
- 12 Franzied
- 13 Diea
- 14 Hamillies: abbr.
- 15 Very small bit
- 16 Make lacs
- 17 Bradley and Smart
- 18 Wall painting
- 19 Secretary
- 20 Lance
- 21 Salsalid
- 22 Whinnical
- 23 Logic
- 24 Stray
- 25 Author
- 26 Ralph
- 27 Combining
- 28 Mex. food
- 29 Haric
- 30 champion
- 31 Certain petty officer: abbr.
- 32 Hindu garment
- 33 Posses
- 34 Galt
- 35 Organic compound
- 36 Large cat for short
- 37 Miami's county
- 38 Summers: Fr.
- 39 Install in office
- 40 By way of

Saturday's Puzzle Solved:

STAFFE	ALIAS	ROBIA
AMTIE	STRIE	EDRIN
MARRIE	STIR	EDRIN
SIFRA	STIR	EDRIN
NEGRAN	WEAPON	
RAM	DOO	ARR
EDD	DOO	ISORE
CATALA	TRAF	EDD
STENO	STIR	EDRIN
ONE	DOO	TRIO
DEAD	WAPPA	EDRIN
ALTA	EDD	EDRIN
DOE	DOO	EDRIN
READ	PRET	TRADE

THE BETTER HALF By Harris



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

USHOE
DHOSE
WARLC
CRAWL
TOCCUL
OCCOLT
HINCUR
OCCOLN

ANOTHER NAME FOR THE TIME YOU SPEND GOING HOME FROM WORK.

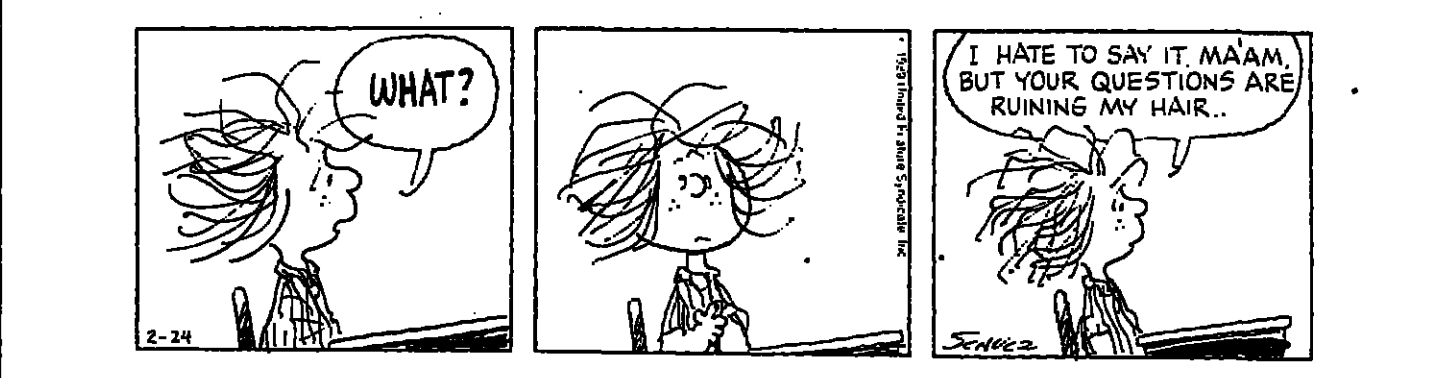
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer. 85 suggested by the above cartoon.

ANSWER: THE "DOSE" HOUR

Yesterday's Jumbles: GRIEF PAUSE EROTIC COLUMN

Answer: You can't get rid of a bad temper by doing this—LOSING IT

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Police raid Mandela house

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Police Sunday said they found traces of blood and took fingerprints after an eight-hour search of the Soweto home of black activist Winnie Mandela.

They also took bags of clothes belonging to her bodyguards. Police did not immediately confirm reports from spokesmen in the house that some of the bodyguards were arrested.

"We have found fingerprints and blood samples. These will be tested in our laboratory," said Brigadier General Jaap Joubert, who is heading the investigation into the death of a 14-year-old black activist who was allegedly abducted and beaten at the house before his body, with the throat slit, was found dumped in the black township of Soweto.

Joubert, who directed the

search while Mrs. Mandela went about her daily chores, is also investigating the disappearance of two young men last seen in the company of her bodyguards in November, and the murder of a Soweto doctor who is reported to have seen the 14-year-old boy after he was beaten.

Police searched through Mrs. Mandela's belongings, but did not take any of them, said a journalist at the scene. Spokesmen at the house said a few of the young men who stay at the house were taken away after the raid began at 4 p.m. (0200 GMT).

The Reverend Frank Chikane, general-secretary of the South African Council of Churches, said at a news conference Saturday that Mrs. Mandela had decided to remove the young men from her home,

after receiving orders from her husband, African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, last Wednesday.

Chikane said Mandela wanted the men removed from the house, "so that perceptions around the family can be cleared up." Chikane also said he would begin arrangements to move the men elsewhere.

It was not known whether he was able to carry out his plan before police began the raid.

Major anti-apartheid leaders in South Africa condemned Mandela last Thursday, accusing her of complicity in the abduction and assault of 14-year-old Stompie Sepele, and saying he would be alive today if the bodyguards, known as the Mandela United Soccer Team, had not abducted him from a church residence. The leaders said that the team, a



Winnie Mandela

creation of Mandela, had waged a "reign of terror" in Soweto.

The executive of the African National Congress issued a softer rebuke Saturday, saying Mandela had made mistakes and failed to listen to the counsel of black community leaders.

French, Arabs demonstrate for Rushdie

PARIS (R) — About 100 French and Arab intellectuals demonstrated in Paris Sunday in support of Salman Rushdie, the British author whose death was ordered by Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini last week.

The writers and political activists who protested outside the Chailot palace called Khomeini's words a "terrorist act."

Muslims have complained that Indian-born Rushdie's latest book, "The Satanic Verses," defames their religion.

"I was not at all shocked by the book," exiled Iranian writer Pakdaman Nasser said. "The world he describes is a world we know in the Third World ... a world of changing values."

Meanwhile Rushdie remained in hiding Sunday after Tehran sent confusing signals on whether his apology for distressing Muslims had earned him a reprieve from a death order.

The author issued the statement from a secret address Saturday after Khomeini said his novel was blasphemous and demanded his death.

"I profoundly regret the distress that publication has occasioned to sincere followers of Islam," Rushdie said after consulting publishers Viking Penguin.

The official Iranian news agency IRNA, within hours of receiving the statement, said the apology fell short of the public repent-

ance demanded for a reprieve. A second IRNA report said it was sufficient for a pardon but this was later redefined as an expression of a journalist's personal opinion.

There was no additional comment from Tehran, where Iranian President Ali Khamenei appeared to be trying to calm Western outrage Friday when he said Rushdie might be pardoned if he repented.

Britain's Foreign Office said it planned to ask Tehran to explain the signals to its Charge d'Affaires Nick Browne, one of three diplomats at the recently reopened embassy there.

The government also froze plans to increase its representa-

tion in Tehran, just three months after the countries agreed to restore full diplomatic ties after a year-long rift.

The 41-year-old author and his American wife have been in hiding since Tuesday. He has denied blaspheming Islam.

The book has outraged traditional Muslims but Britain's estimated 1.5 million Muslims were divided in their reaction to the apology.

The Islamic Society for the Promotion of Islamic Tolerance proposed a three-point peace plan suggesting that an erratum be included in future publications to warn readers that the book should not be regarded as a factual work on Islam.

Seoul tightens grip amid Roh criticism

SEOUL (R) — With mounting criticism over South Korean President Roh Tae-woo's leadership, formidable police forces are out to crack down on street demonstrations in the run-up to the anniversary of his inauguration next week.

A police spokesman said Sunday that riot police hauled in a total of 714 protesters overnight, carrying out a new policy to block troubles "from the source."

The new police tactics coincide with a flood of criticism by political commentators that Roh's year in power has seen little progress in resolving basic problems caused by his strongman predecessor Chun Doo Hwan.

"Spontaneous efforts to remove authoritarian tints from the

government and to infuse a laissez-faire mood in its operations has combined to create the image of a weak government," said Kim Myong-Sik, a political editor at the Korea Times.

"The republic's problems have multiplied, and much of the blame goes to the chief executive for lacking wit and gut," Kim said.

Columnist Yu Kun-II of the influential Chosun Ilbo newspaper said continuing political problems were a result of the moral weakness of the ruling camp.

Yu said Roh failed to win moral support by refusing to throw out senior officials of the past era from his government.

Commentators also note Roh failed to end controversy over the

brutal army crushing of a 1980 civil uprising in the southern city of Kwangju, which claimed 200 lives by official count.

Roh, who promised to hold a vote of confidence after the 1988 Seoul Olympics, has taken a more tolerant line than Chun on demonstrations but was furious last Monday when police allowed a farmers' protest outside parliament to turn violent.

Some 120 police and demonstrators were injured when more than 10,000 farmers and dissidents battled riot police after a rally against the government's farm policies.

On Saturday, authorities mobilised 13,000 policemen to foil a dissident plan to launch a

10-day "civil struggle" against a brief visit by U.S. President Bush Feb. 27.

The same number of police stood vigil again Sunday in the streets of Seoul although police said most of 714 arrested for defying orders to disperse would be released later Sunday.

The protests were called by a newly-formed dissident alliance which said Bush's visit, two days after the first anniversary of Roh's inauguration, would strengthen the Seoul leader's position.

The radicals accuse Roh, who came to power after a free elections in late 1987, of failing to keep his campaign promise to expose past abuses of power.

Officials propose partially democratic elections in Poland

WARSAW (AP) — Communist leaders proposed a new electoral system Saturday that would reserve some parliament seats for independent candidates and eventually lead to elections, opposition spokesmen said.

"In comparison to what we have had, this is a great step forward... it opens the road to political freedom," said Bronislaw Geremek, chairman of a group of Solidarity officials participating in talks with the government.

In the past, only party-approved candidates were able to run for parliament.

The proposal came during the latest session between the government and a Solidarity working group on political, economic and social reforms in Poland.

Janusz Onyszkiewicz, spokesman for the banned trade union, said opposition leaders were willing to discuss with authorities the partially democratic electoral system, which also would reserve a portion of seats for candidates backed by the Communist Party.

Janusz Reykowski, a politburo member who led the official side in Saturday's talks, called the proposal "a very important, radical change in comparison with all other election systems after the war. We treat this as a step to additional changes in the future."

Solidarity officials said the proposal appeared acceptable if other reforms were included, such as allowing access to the news media, insuring independent courts and guaranteeing the right to form associations.

"We would like the elections to be as open as possible, so that for example Solidarity candidates could compete with government candidates, but it seems that the government wants to avoid such

competition," Onyszkiewicz said in revealing the government's proposal at a news conference.

"The authorities expect our approval of an electoral procedure proposed for the nearest elections that will not be 100 per cent democratic. And we did accept this principle," he said.

Jack Kuron, a senior Solidarity adviser, said the opposition also was told that the proposed election procedure would be a one-time proposition, and that subsequent elections would be totally democratic.

But he cautioned, "a declaration as such has no significance. What is significant is (increasing) the broad democratic process" through other political reforms.

Under the government proposal, each election district would have two to five seats, and the opposition and authorities would decide in advance which seats could be contested among independent candidates and which would be reserved for officially backed candidates.

Party sources have said privately they envision a system where 60 per cent of the seats would be reserved for the party and its allies, and 40 per cent for independent candidates linked to the Roman Catholic church or Solidarity.

Anyone who collected 5,000 signatures could run for parliament, but both sides would observe a "gentleman's agreement" not to run in each other's districts, a high-ranking party source said.

The government proposal was

the latest development in a two-week series of talks between authorities and the opposition.

Union legalisation

So far, officials have agreed in principle to legalise the banned Solidarity union under terms acceptable to it, to register the banned farmers' group Rural Solidarity, to allow independent organisations their own press and to ease censorship.

Under the format laid down by Interior Minister Czeslaw Kiszczak at the beginning of the talks Feb. 6, none of the agreements will be valid unless the talks as a whole succeed.

The unprecedented talks with the opposition were first offered by authorities during a wave of strikes in August that underscored growing social tensions caused by Poland's 60-70 per cent inflation and market shortages.

Party leaders say agreement will open the way for a concerted attack on the economic crisis and provide a stable atmosphere in which to widen democracy.

In the biggest sign of progress last week, authorities agreed to legalise Solidarity under an amended law that would let it begin functioning legally at once. Existing labour law would have required that it go through a cumbersome process of forming itself anew from the bottom up.

The same resolution, adopted by participants in the working group on trade unions, also gave Solidarity full freedom to decide its own organisational structure.

Before the talks began, Solidarity spokesman feared the state would try to dictate the union's internal structure.

But opposition negotiator Tadeusz Mazowiecki said the agreement reached Thursday was "as Solidarity demanded."

Armenians leaving Azerbaijan — paper

MOSCOW (R) — Armenians are still leaving their homes in Azerbaijan as ethnic tension persists in the two Soviet republics, the military newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda reported Sunday.

By last week, 166,000 refugees had arrived in Armenia from Azerbaijan, the newspaper said. It said there were also many curfew violations in the capital, Yerevan, and other Armenian cities where Soviet troops were sent last year as tensions exploded into violence, while Armenian dissidents were continuing "hidden agitation."

"On the whole the situation in the capital and other districts of Armenia is normal. But one cannot but note that every day there are reports from district military commanders of violations of the established order," the newspaper said.

On Friday alone, 82 people were detained for such violations, Krasnaya Zvezda said. "All this indicates that below the calm surface, tension continues."

The article appeared to contradict a report by the Soviet news agency TASS earlier this month that refugees from both republics had started to return to their homes as the situation calmed down.

The Feb. 7 TASS account said 158,000 Armenians and 141,000 Azerbaijanis had fled their homes to escape violence or the threat of

it as of Nov. 22. But it said recently 43,800 Armenians and 4,100 Azeris had returned home.

Ninety-one people were killed last year in clashes stemming from a dispute between the two republics over control of the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh. The region is in Azerbaijan but three-quarters of its population are Armenians.

Members of the Karabakh Committee, an Armenian group that has organised protests for union of Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia, are continuing their "agitation work," Krasnaya Zvezda said.

It said the group circulated rumours and "extremist leaflets." Among their "inventions" was an allegation that the Yerevan nuclear power station had been damaged in the devastating earthquake that hit part of Armenia Dec. 7, the newspaper said.

"Yesterday I visited the nuclear power station and I can say that it was not damaged," the correspondent wrote. After the December tremor, Soviet officials decided to shut the plant by next month because it is in an earthquake zone.

TASS said earlier this month that all the leaders of the banned Karabakh Committee had been arrested, but there has been no word on what if any charges have been filed against them.

Bush's first journey high on symbolism

WASHINGTON (AP) — Veteran globe-trotter George Bush sets out Wednesday on his first overseas journey as president, a fast-paced trip to three Asian nations anxious about the United States' budget problems and its military commitments abroad.

Over five-and-a-half days, Bush will travel to Japan, China, South Korea and back home again. More than 36 hours of his time will be spent on air force one flying from place to place.

Playing down expectations, White House officials said the trip offers an opportunity to demonstrate resolve and affinity with friends and the region. "It would be unreasonable to expect major resolution of policy issues four weeks into the administration," one official said.

"Symbolically it's important," said Robert A. Scalapino, director of the Institute of East Asian Studies at the University of California at Berkeley. "There's no region in the world in which we have greater economic, political and strategic interests."

The trip originated with Bush's decision to attend the funeral Friday of Japanese Emperor Hirohito, which will attract scores of world leaders. The president has defended his decision to

attend the funeral amid criticism from those who still resent Hirohito's role in World War II.

"I'm doing what's right," the president said recently.

Bush, a former navy aviator whose plane was shot down by the Japanese in the Pacific in 1944, said, "We have a good relationship with Japan. I want to see it even better. And this doesn't concern me a bit. And you're talking to a person who was in combat in World War II. I feel you look ahead, not always look back. You do what's right."

Taking advantage of the occasion, Bush will hold separate talks in Tokyo with 16 to 20 heads of state or government, including King Hussein, French President Francois Mitterrand, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, and Philippine President Corazon Aquino.

Bush's trip comes at a time of concern in Asia that budget and trade deficits could prompt the United States to scale down its defence commitments or to demand that allies shoulder a bigger share of regional security costs. In particular, there are tensions over the big trade imbalances that Japan and South Korea have with the United States.

COLUMN

Residents fed up with fame

CARMEL, California (AP) — Fed up with fame and overused on tourists after the tenure of Mayor Clint Eastwood, some residents tried to stop Henry Winkler and Tom Hanks from making a Walt Disney film in this coastal village. The showdown came Tuesday night when the city council granted the Disney company a permit to film outdoor scenes of the action comedy "Turner and Hooch" on five days in April. The film stars Hanks, Mare Winningham and a big dog named Beasley. Winkler will direct. Neither Winkler nor Hanks appeared at the meeting. Instead, location manager Eric Johnson and production manager Michele Ader fielded questions from neighbourhood associations.

Judge warns woman about heels

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida (AP) — A judge has warned Berenice Rogers to slip out of her high heels before strolling around her apartment. Palm Beach County Circuit Judge Richard Burk said Tuesday that if Rogers persists in annoying her downstairs neighbours with her noisy footsteps, she could be pacing inside a jail cell. Bernard and Sonja Arbuse, who live directly below Rogers at the Sun and Surf Condominium, said the problem began in 1984 when Rogers had Italian tile laid in her \$235,000 condominium. The couple's attorney, Charles Nugent, requested Burk to order Rogers to install carpeting. Rogers said she laid oriental and sheepskin rugs and removes her heels at the front door, but she does not want carpet. "I don't believe Mrs. Rogers is required to give up her right to decorate," the judge said. "And I don't believe I can require her to stop walking."

Thief strips

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — A man robbed a woman of a gold chain, a bangle, a piece of jade and cash but eventually left most of it behind and flung off all his clothes while people chased him, it was reported last week. Chong Yik Yin, 54, was starting her car near a supermarket in Kota Kinabalu, 2,286 kilometres east of the Malaysian capital, when the man robbed her of the valuables and \$73, the national news agency Bernama quoted local police superintendent Abdul Rauf as saying. Chong screamed for help and the man fled, pursued by several people who were passing by. As he ran, the man undressed himself completely, casting off all the clothes and valuables except the bangles, and disappeared, the agency reported.

Reynolds' buys TVs for inmates

LANTANA, Florida (AP) — Burt Reynolds' new television series will have a captive audience for its debut when the inmates at Lantana Correctional Institution view it on five new colour television sets provided by the star. Reynolds' production company, Blue Period Incorporated, provided \$1,500 for the sets to make up for inmates' inconvenience during three days of filming of the detective series "B.L. Stryker" at the prison in late January. "It was a gesture on their part," prison superintendent Ray Henderson said. "We did not require it. They wanted to do something that would impact the most, since the inmates were inconvenienced." During the filming, the prison's 40 inmates were confined to one end of the prison and barred from using their outdoor recreation yard, Henderson said. The new sets will replace the prison's present ones, which "are on their last legs," Henderson said.

Director helps Angels

LONDON (R) — Michael Winner, the British director of the "death wish" vigilante films, said last week he had stepped in to help New York's Guardian Angels in their campaign against crime on London's underground. Winner said he met the Angels' leader, Curtis Sliva, on a television talk show and decided to give him £1,000 (\$1,750) to help fund his activities. "I see no reason why citizens should not protect each other," Winner told Reuters. "We don't have enough police." He said the Guardian Angels' had the support of the British public and the authorities had overreacted. When the Angels arrived in Britain, they were detained for six hours by police and the authorities they do not want self-appointed law enforcers patrolling the underground railways.



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